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TRAVELS

THROUGH

DENMARK, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA,

AND

PART OF ITALY,

IN

1798 & 1799,

BY

CHARLES GOTTLOB KÜTTNER.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

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1805.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE LAND OFFICE

Presented to the House of Commons in the Year 1845
By the Commissioners of the Land Office
In compliance with a Resolution of the House of Commons
Passed on the 12th of May 1844
That the Commissioners of the Land Office should be required
to lay before the House a Report of the State of the
Land in England and Wales, and of the Progress of the
Enclosure and Improvement of the same, and of the
Manner in which the Land Revenue is collected and
applied, and of the State of the Land in Scotland
and Ireland, and of the Progress of the Enclosure
and Improvement of the same, and of the Manner in
which the Land Revenue is collected and applied.

1845

OF THE LAND IN ENGLAND AND WALES

AND OF THE PROGRESS OF THE ENCLOSURE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE SAME

AND OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE LAND REVENUE IS COLLECTED AND APPLIED

AND OF THE STATE OF THE LAND IN SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

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AND OF THE STATE OF THE LAND IN SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

ADVERTISEMENT

OF

THE TRANSLATOR.

THE Writer of the following pages is a literary character of considerable eminence in Germany, and not unknown in England, with which a long visit has rendered him intimately acquainted. His observations are evidently not the result of a superficial mind. A residence in different countries has furnished him with an opportunity of seeing objects in various points of view, and has enabled him to draw more accurate conclusions from those which fall under his observation.

M. Kuttner himself remarks, that this Work should not be considered as a complete description of the countries through which it conducts the Reader; but, at the same time, he assures us that all the remarks have been made on the spot or place to which they relate; because he was resolved to write on no subject but what he had himself seen. This stamps his work

with the character of extraordinary accuracy and impartiality; which, combined with the Author's statistical and political knowledge, and the information he acquired by conversing with the most enlightened men in the places he visited, renders these Travels peculiarly interesting.

The Translator has judged it proper to dispense with the desultory observations on Hamburgh and other well known parts of Germany, and has conducted the Reader at once to the Author's entrance into Denmark; a country, the present state of which is little known to the English Reader.

London, Oct. 26, 1804.

TRAVELS

THROUGH

DENMARK, SWEDEN, AND NORWAY,

IN THE YEARS 1798 & 1799.

LETTER I.

JOURNEY FROM KIEL TO SLESWICK.—THE EYDER.—CANAL BETWEEN HOLSTEIN AND SLESWICK.—ECKERNFÖHRDE.—SLESWICK.—THE CASTLE OF GOTTORP.—THE COUNTRY OF THE ANGLES.—FLENSBURG.—THE ISLAND OF ALSEN.—SONDERBURG.—AUGUSTENBURG.—APENRADE.—HADERSLEV.—CHRISTIANSFELD, A MORAVIAN SETTLEMENT.—KOLDING.—MIDDLEFAHRT.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE DUCHY OF SLESWICK.—ODENSE.—NYEBORG.—OBSERVATIONS ON THE ISLAND OF FÜNEN, AND THE DANISH DOMINIONS IN GENERAL.—PASSAGE OF THE GREAT BELT.—SPRÖE.—ICE-BOATS, WHICH CARRY THE POST OVER THE BELT IN WINTER.—KORSÖER.

COPENHAGEN, *June 1798.*

LEAVING Kiel, we soon arrived at the canal at Knox, which has, in this place, a very fine sluice. The river Eyder, which forms the boundary between Holstein and Sleswick, is navigable from Rendsburg to the North Sea; so that, to establish a communication between the latter and the Baltic, nothing more was necessary, than to render navigable the six miles between Rendsburg and the Baltic. On account of the fall in this part, six sluices were constructed; and that which I saw, was equal, both in neatness and convenience, to any I ever met with in England and Holland. I was so fortunate as to arrive just at the moment when a large vessel was passing through, on its way to the Baltic. During the passage, which was performed in about half an hour, I entered into conversation with the captain; from whom I learned that this canal is capable of admitting vessels of upwards of 200 tons; but if they draw more than nine feet water, it is necessary to lighten them.

KÜTTNER.]

If we consider the vast circuit round all Sleswick and Jütland, which is avoided by ships navigating this canal, we should be led to suppose, that this advantage is of sufficient magnitude to counter-balance every other consideration. This, however, is not the case; for vessels are subject to so many delays in the passage, that, though the length of the canal is only 22 German miles, they are sometimes detained in it a whole month; especially if the wind happen to be contrary. A passage of 48 or 50 hours is reckoned uncommonly expeditious. The toll paid at each of the six sluices is four shillings; the same is required for two bridges; so that the whole sum does not exceed 32 schillings, (about two shillings and six-pence English).

On the north side of the canal is situated the charming residence of the count Von Bauditz. The grounds are laid out in the English style; and the house has been lately rebuilt. The road is tolerably good; and, like most of those in the duchy of Sleswick, paved with very large stones. Though they enable the passenger to proceed with greater rapidity, than on a sandy soil; yet they are productive of no small inconvenience to the carriage and every thing within it.

Before the traveller reaches Eckernförde, he enjoys a beautiful view of the bay on which that town is situated. This tract contains a great portion of wood-land; whence it has been denominated *Sylva Danica*. Eckernförde is neither a handsome nor a large place; but it has some trade. Close to the town is a fresh-water lake; which is, however, connected with the bay. Over the place where they join, is a wooden bridge, across which lies the road to Sleswick.

The distance from this place to Sleswick is 14 miles. This tract consists principally of moors and sand; it contains little wood, and few inhabitants. The Schley, a long, narrow bay, which runs from the Baltic up to the town of Sleswick, affords, however, some pleasing views.

Sleswick is a charming place; greatly resembling the capitals of the democratic Swiss cantons. In some parts, it has less the appearance of a town, than of groups of country-houses. It consists principally of one street, about two miles and a-half in length; in which many of the houses stand detached. Almost all of them are small, many having only a ground-floor; and few being more than one story high. They are built, in general, of wood; and have a neat, clean, and pleasing appearance. The town is situated at the bottom of the Schley; and, when seen from the water, or from an eminence, it makes a considerable figure; as all the best houses then appear most conspicuous. These, in general, belong to the nobility, who come from all parts of the duchy, and from the islands, to spend the winter in this place. Sleswick is the re-

sidence of the governor of the province: but it has very little trade, notwithstanding its secure and capacious harbour; because there is not a sufficient depth of water at its mouth. The cathedral, though a very old and insignificant structure, is, however, an interesting object to the observer; because it contains, in some measure, the history of the arts and of the progress of taste, in this country, during several centuries. I scarcely ever saw an edifice of this kind so much crowded with monuments; but they attest the splendour and opulence of the families which are here interred. All the pillars are hung round with busts, statues, pictures, &c. Many families have distinct chapels, in which the deceased are deposited, in immense coffins of marble, lead, and copper. One of these chapels contains the remains of the ancient dukes of Sleswick; and its walls are decorated with their effigies, in white marble. Several bishops are likewise interred here. The large marble monument of Frederic I. of Denmark, who died in 1534, is embellished with a great number of statues of white marble; the execution of which is by no means contemptible. I was particularly struck with an altar-piece, of ancient workmanship. The figures upon it, which are almost innumerable, are of wood; and represent Scriptural histories. They are richly gilt all over, by which the workmanship is, in some degree, disadvantageously concealed.

The castle of Gottorp, though situated close to Sleswick, is not generally considered as belonging to the town. It is a large structure, and was formerly the residence of the dukes: the garden is terminated by a hill, which commands a delightful prospect. On the eminence stands a pleasure-house, where was formerly the celebrated globe, which was afterwards removed to Petersburg. It contains nothing worthy of notice; and is now the ordinary residence of Prince Charles of Hesse-Cassel, governor of Sleswick and Holstein; and consort of the princess Louisa, daughter of the Danish king, Frederic V. and mother of the Crown Princess.

SONDERBURG, *in the island of ALSEN*, June 23d.

We left Sleswick early this morning, and ascended on foot a considerable eminence, in order to enjoy another view of the town, the bay, and its islands. We then crossed a tract of the worst land in the duchy; while the contiguous country of the Angles, from which the Anglo-Saxons are supposed to have derived their origin, or at least their name, is equally distinguished for the excellent quality of its soil. It extends about 18 miles each way; and is bounded on the south, by the Schley; on the east, by the Baltic Sea; on the north, by the Bay of Flensburg; and is sepa-

rated by the high road from Sleswick to Flensburg from the interior provinces of the duchy.

Flensburg, though not the capital, is the most opulent and important place in this country. It is not small, and the streets, which are rather narrow, swarm with inhabitants, and exhibit a continual scene of bustle and activity. The houses are neither so neat nor so clean as those of Sleswick; but they are constructed in a more solid and durable manner. Like that town, Flensburg principally consists of one very long street. The back of this street looks towards the harbour; on that side, each house has a small garden, separated from the water by an alley, which forms an agreeable promenade. To the right is the port, with the vessels, which produce a lively spectacle; and, to the left are the gardens, each of which has a door leading to this alley. They all command the most delightful view of the harbour, the bay, and the opposite mountainous shore. The port is very good, safe, and convenient; and was full of ships when I saw it. Close to the town, it is narrow; but the whole bay, which is denominated Flensburg Wisk, is 18 miles in length, and terminates at Flensburg, may be considered as a harbour; for it is encompassed by hills, which shelter it from every wind, and is of sufficient depth for the largest vessels.

From this place, we resolved to turn aside to the island of Alsen; whose capital, Sonderburg, is five miles distant from Flensburg. The country through which the road at first leads, is neither fertile nor agreeable, till you reach the place called Sundewit: where the duke of Holstein Augustenburg possesses a considerable estate, and the mansion of Gravenstein. As we approached the latter, the country assumed a more pleasing aspect; and we found the road kept in excellent repair. Upon our arrival at Gravenstein, we immediately proceeded to the palace: a square building of considerable magnitude; though one of the wings has been burned down;—and the duke does not intend to rebuild it. The grounds about the palace are fine, and contain some noble and extensive woods. Art has had little share in the formation of the scenery: Nature created an English park on a grand scale; and it was thought sufficiently beautiful to be left in that state.

Between Sleswick and Flensburg, I almost imagined myself in Ireland. The similarity, in the appearance of the country, is so striking, that one of our servants, an Italian, who had once been in that island, could not refrain from continually repeating to himself, *Irlanda, Irlanda!* Of the road from Gravenstein to Sonderburg, two miles and a-half lead through a country that is extremely beautiful, and presents the most delightful views; many of which strongly reminded me of England.

Proceeding, for a considerable distance, along a small bay, you continue ascending; and, at length, discover the island of Alsen, with the town of Sonderburg, which appears to great advantage; and, being situated on the declivity of a hill, seems much larger than it really is. To the right, you see a part of the Baltic; and to the left, the streight which divides Alsen from the continent. Here, at the distance of four miles, you behold the white towers of Augustenburg, peering above the verdant trees, with which it is surrounded; and commanding a small bay, extended at its feet. The whole made an extremely pleasing impression; and produced sensations similar to those which certain scenes in Italy once excited.

We now kept descending to the narrow streight which separates Alsen from the continent. Here is a ferry-boat, guided by a rope fastened, on each side, to the shore; but, as we should have been detained some time by the carriage, we took a small boat, which landed us in six minutes on the opposite side of the streight.

APENRADE, 24th June.

We set off very early this morning from Sonderburg, in order to visit Augustenburg, the principal residence of the duke. Here, as at Gravenstein, we found a good road; both being, probably, maintained at the duke's expence. We proceed, principally, through meadow-land, to the small village of Augustenburg; at the extremity of which the palace is situated. The external appearance of the latter, its spacious court, and extensive stables, give it an air of grandeur which renders it worthy of a prince. The garden is in the French style.

We went back to Sonderburg by the same way, and hastened to the ferry; in the vicinity of which stands an ancient castle, likewise belonging to the duke; but which has long been uninhabited. Here is the burial-place of the family.

The distance from Sonderburg to Apenrade is 18 miles. On the way to the latter place, I remarked that the habitations of the country-people had, almost without exception, an appearance of neatness and cleanliness. They are very small and low, but are, in a high degree, what particularly pleases an Englishman, and what he calls a *snug neat cottage*. The windows are all whole, not patched with paper, and kept perfectly clean: the roof is of thatch, very thick, and formed with the utmost accuracy and regularity: in a word, the *tout-ensemble* gives an idea of warmth, comfort, and convenience. The people in general, in this district, are particularly clever in the art of thatching, and are not excelled even by the inhabitants of the country about Hamburg. Many

things here likewise reminded me of the more improved parts of Ireland. I thought I perceived a considerable difference between that portion of Sleswick which belongs to the Duke of Augustenburg, and the rest of the country, though the whole of it exceeded my expectation. I was informed that the Duke is a good master to his vassals, and has relieved them from several oppressive burthens. There are no such large farms here as in many parts of Germany, nor any very opulent individuals among the peasantry. Every thing is on a very small and limited scale, but they have sufficient to satisfy all their wants.

Apenrade is a tolerably large, handsome, populous, and very opulent town. The houses are entirely in the Dutch style. A peculiar kind of luxury strikes the eye of a stranger in this place: I mean the paintings, with which great numbers of the door-ways are decorated. On some you see gardens, or architectural subjects, strange figures, but most frequently landscapes, and, here and there, views of the town and harbour of Apenrade: the town contains a great number of shops, and its trade is said to be pretty considerable. This, however, relates more to its domestic consumption, than to extensive foreign commerce; for in this respect Apenrade cannot sustain any comparison with Flensburg. The harbour, indeed, is not of sufficient depth for the purposes of navigation. It is situated at the bottom of a bay, surrounded with hills of considerable height, covered with wood. These eminences, which gradually grow higher as they recede from the coast, afford, with their woods, such delicious views, that I imagined I was beholding several contiguous country-seats of English gentlemen.

MIDDLEFAHRT, *in the island of Fiinen*, June 25, 1803.

Leaving Apenrade, we crossed some of the hills which had yesterday given me such pleasure. By ten in the morning we had reached Hadersley, though above twenty miles distant from Apenrade. This is likewise a tolerable town, is situated on a bay, and has some trade. The mountains continue increasing in height, from this place to the frontiers of Jütland, and the country becomes more picturesque and woody, but likewise assumes a wilder appearance. It is remarkable, that all the woods consist principally of beech, and that the fir which I expected chiefly to have met with in the north, is so rare, that I scarcely think I saw between Eutin and Jütland, a single fir, larch, or pine, which did not appear to have been planted either in a garden or near a house.

Notwithstanding the roughness of the road, we proceeded with great rapidity over the eighteen miles to Kolding, the first place in Jütland, making, likewise, a circuit to Christiansfeld, or, as

our postillion called it, The Holy Town. It lies at some distance from the high road, nearer to Hadersley than Kolding, and in neatness, beauty, and cleanliness, exceeds every town I have seen for a long time. The whole place has not been built above twenty years, and might be taken for a group of country-houses belonging to opulent Dutch citizens. Every thing is laid out by line; before the houses, on each side of the way, is a row of trees, whose verdure forms an agreeable contrast with the pale yellow of the buildings. Each house is separated from those next to it by a small square court or garden. The place is inhabited by a congregaten of Moravian, or, as they stile themselves, Evangelical, Brethren. They built it under the protection of his present Majesty, Christian VII. and it is named after him. All articles manufactured here, are said to be of excellent quality, but they are considerably dearer than at other places. I was informed that they have the character of being good, peaceable, and industrious citizens. For the rest, their discipline and institutions are the same as at Herrnhut in Lusatia. This place is neither mentioned in Busching, nor laid down in any of the maps which we took with us.

Travellers, in general, go from Hadersley to the island of Aroe, and from the latter to Assens in Funen, proceeding directly to Odense, the capital of that island. This route is considerably shorter and consequently cheaper than that which we chose, but the Little Belt is, in this place, 19 miles over. Partly with a view to avoid the sea, and partly to see something of Jütland, we went through Kolding, Snoghøe, crossing the Little Belt to Middlefahrt, where it is scarcely two miles and a half broad.

I have frequently made the observation, that it is with towns and countries exactly as with persons: there is something in the first look that prejudices us for or against them; and if several unpleasing circumstances successively occur, ill-humour is the consequence, and then every thing is disagreeable and disgusting. This was perhaps the case on my entrane into Jütland; it is likewise possible, that there may exist between this province and Sleswick that difference which is frequently found between two countries bordering on each other, and separated, like them, merely by a brook.—Be this as it may, the first view of Kolding produced an unfavourable impression, which the post-house, very different from those I had recently visited, was not calculated to remove.

We had scarcely alighted, when we were informed of the arrival of two custom-house officers, a description of men to which I have a great aversion, and by whom the traveller is not molested in Hanover, Holstein, and Sleswick. This is strictly the commencement of Denmark; and Kolding may consequently

be considered as the first frontier town. The constitution and form of government of the Danish States, properly so called, to which Jütland belongs, varies in many respects from that of the duchies of Sleswick and Holstein; and there is likewise a considerable difference in the currency.—We went to see an ancient royal palace, situated close to the town, on a hill commanding a fine prospect. The greater part of it is now in ruins, but it must once have been a place of some consequence, as it was inhabited by several kings.

The distance from Kolding to Snoghøe is about 11 miles, in which the hills, mostly covered with trees, and the bay which runs up to Kolding, and is here and there seen on the way to Snoghøe, augment the beauty of the various prospects. The latter part of this stage is particularly delightful, as the traveller is separated from the island of Funen only by the Little Belt, which here winds among a great number of promontories, that are seen successively projecting, with the sea between them.—You likewise now and then discover Fridericia, a fortress, which at this distance produces an agreeable effect.

Snoghøe is remarkable only for its ferry over the Little Belt, and is composed of a few houses, among which is an inn. The ferry-boat is not large, but is capable of transporting three carriages at once. The evening was fine, the wind strong and favourable, and in 17 minutes we were in the island of Funen.

We had still time sufficient to walk about in the town of Middlefart, where there is very little to be seen. The houses, in general, have only a ground-floor, and the diminutive Dutch style, which commences in Holstein and continues throughout Sleswick, dwindles away, in Funen and Seeland, into absolute meanness, without possessing that cleanliness and neatness which in the former countries produce such a pleasing effect. We found very decent accommodations at Söer Nolsens, for here the inns seldom have any sign; but are called by the name of the landlord.

NYEBORG, *in the Island of Funen, the 26th June.*

Before I proceed any farther, give me leave to make a few general observations on the duchy of Sleswick. I scarcely know a country, excepting England, in which travelling is more agreeable. From Kiel to Jütland you meet with a continual succession of plains and moderate hills, and a country which, though not equal to the finest tracts of Germany, is, however, very well cultivated, where the charming verdure of the corn-fields, meadows, and pastures, is shaded by the darker tints of the woods and groves. It is only here and there that small tracts of barren heath, turf or moorland, intervene.

In the towns every thing exceeded my expectation. The inhabitants are more conveniently lodged, and better clothed; they are more cleanly; in a word, they appear to possess greater affluence than persons of the same class in most of the small towns of Germany. I almost every where fancied myself in Holland. The houses are small, low, and frequently consist only of the ground-floor; but they are extremely neat, and have a great number of windows, which are kept so clean, that, in passing, I often had an opportunity of witnessing the order, cheerfulness, and comfort which prevail within.

Nor is this the case only in the towns; I likewise saw a great number of good houses in the country. The inhabitants appear not only to be acquainted with the conveniences and comforts of life, but likewise with a species of luxury, generally found among people who live near the sea, and who, by navigation and their proximity to seaports, procure things which the lower classes in more inland provinces scarcely know even by name. Even the smallest cottages have an appearance of cleanliness and affluence highly agreeable to the feelings of the philanthropist.

Between Eutin and the Great Belt, that is, in the bishopric of Lübeck, in Holstein, Sleswick, and Jütland, I did not meet with a single human creature but what had shoes and stockings. In Fünen, and only there, the shoes of the common people are mostly of wood; and that island, in general, cannot sustain a comparison with Sleswick. I observed scarcely any beggars.

But, as, on the one hand, every individual appears to possess a competence, so, on the other, no traces are to be found of opulence, grandeur, and splendour. Most of the houses in Leipzig would here pass for palaces, and the habitation of many a German farmer would be taken for the residence of a nobleman! Large store-houses, extensive manufactories, and magnificent public buildings, are as rare as splendid equipages and smart livery-servants.

The roads, if not always good, are at least tolerable. Here and there we met with sand, but we always went twenty miles in about five hours. The extra-posts ought by right to proceed at the rate of nearly five miles an hour, and I could discover how rigorously this injunction is enforced by the government, from the anxiety manifested by the postillions, on their arrival at the end of each stage, to obtain a written certificate, in which the traveller testifies his satisfaction. They were, at the same time, extremely civil, good-tempered, and always contented with what I gave them. I likewise travelled, without opposition, with only four horses; whereas in both Upper and Lower Saxony, and also in Pomerania and Silesia, I was subject to incessant vexation on this account, and was frequently obliged to take six.

I was particularly pleased with the houses of public entertainment. Between Eutin and the frontiers of Jutland, I was in none that was not superior to any that I am acquainted with, in the various towns between Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Leipzig, Magdeburgh, and Brunswick. But Hass's at Sleswick, and the post-house at Apenrade, are two of the best inns that I know any where, though they are not so large and so splendid as the Polish Hotel at Dresden, or the most celebrated houses at Frankfort.

On the GREAT BELT, the 27th of June.

Leaving Middlefahrt early yesterday morning, we proceeded with the same horses to Odense, the capital of Fünen, a distance of 28 miles. Though we baited our horses at Gripswad, yet, notwithstanding the delay, we were not more than six hours in going that stage.

I had, hitherto, scarcely been under any difficulty with regard to the language. In the north of Sleswick, I indeed met with persons who did not understand German; for Danish begins to be spoken between Flensburgh and Jütland; but I readily found others with whom I was able to converse. The same was the case in Jütland. At Middlefahrt nobody, besides our host, could speak German, but his daughter understood almost every thing I said. At Gripswad, a single detached house, I for the first time found not a creature that understood me. In such cases you are obliged to apply to the females, and it is ten to one but you obtain what you want. I spoke German and the landlady Danish, and yet, partly by words and partly by signs, we at length made shift to comprehend each other.

At the inn at Odense we found a waiter who could speak German, and immediately engaged him for a guide through the town. He shewed us the cathedral, with its gilded altar and numerous monuments; the bishop's palace; the Grey Friars, an old church, in which several kings and queens are interred, and where I met with another altar of the same kind as that at Sleswick, and which was indeed extremely handsome. You see upon it an immense number of figures, about eight inches in length, carved in wood in relievo, and representing circumstances recorded in the Old Testament. The whole was very rich and well gilt.

Odense, though the capital of the island, does not contain much that is worthy of notice. It is a place of tolerable extent, but the Danish style of architecture gives it a mean appearance. The houses themselves are old and not well built. The royal palace where Frederic IV. expired, is unworthy of a monarch: the adjacent garden would not deserve to be mentioned, were it not the only one of the kind at this place. It is open to the public, and, at least, affords the inhabitants shade, which is not

easily met with in the vicinity of Odense. Several attempts have been made to introduce the English style into this garden, which was originally laid out in the French or Dutch taste.

Articles of leather, and particularly gloves, are made in this place, to a considerable amount. The few shops which I saw, were insignificant, and destitute of elegance and taste, and very few of the inhabitants whom we met were well dressed. Our guide at length took us, at my request, to a tower, where I enjoyed a view of the whole island, which is a dead flat, and at the same time, remarked the injudicious situation of Odense. About two miles from the town is a good harbour, which is considered as the port of Odense, and is used by the citizens for the purposes of trade. But this distance, though small, makes a great difference in commerce; for all commodities sent thither from Odense, or from the port to that place, must be re-loaded and conveyed on a miserable canal to and from the town.

The stage from Odense to Nyeborg, which is 19 miles, we passed so slowly, that we had more than sufficient time to take a survey of the latter, which is a mean place, with an insignificant fortress, and to enjoy the charming views upon the Great Belt. The town was not long since burned down, and many of the houses are not rebuilt, or only in part. All those who cross the Great Belt at this place, are obliged, in addition to the ancient toll, to pay a certain sum for the benefit of the town. Nyeborg is situated on the pleasant and tolerably fertile borders of a bay.

Fünen is accounted the best of the Danish islands, and is reported to produce considerable quantities of corn. I entertained great doubts on this head; but was, however, assured at Copenhagen, that this was a fact, and, among others, by a gentleman who himself possesses considerable estates in the island.

There is little to be seen from the high road between Middlefart and Nyeborg, which runs quite across the country. As far as my eye could reach, the whole island appeared almost entirely level, and the soil, in general, sandy. As there are neither rocks, mountains, nor much wood, the whole country is susceptible of a high cultivation. But the state of agriculture in this part of Denmark is not, by far, so much improved as it might be; a great portion of the country consists of pastures which are neither better nor worse than the hand of nature has made them; for by human hands they are entirely neglected. As the farmer, during great part of the year, is not occupied with providing fodder for his cattle, he has abundant leisure for the cultivation of corn. He is therefore enabled to raise more than he consumes, and consequently to export the surplus. This, however, is no proof that Fünen is a rich and fertile island. I should rather say, that it is a country which

has a very inadequate population; the inhabitants of which possess more land than they want, or are able to cultivate; so that they employ themselves entirely in raising corn, while they neglect the rest of their farms, which they abandon to their cattle, without bestowing any pains on their improvement.

I observed very few gentlemen's seats, and it is possible I may have mistaken many of them for the better sort of farm-houses. Detached houses were by no means so frequent as I had been led to expect; the villages were thinly scattered, and, in general, small and mean. In the whole distance of 47 miles, between Middlefahrt and Nyeborg, the only town is Odense, which is indeed the capital of the country, and one of the most considerable in the Danish islands. This, however, is not saying much in its favour; for, excepting Copenhagen, there is not a place in all these islands, that can be compared with the middle class of German towns, or even with Chemnitz in Saxony, or Zittau and Görlitz in Lusatia. Elsinour, or Helsingöer, is the second town in the Danish islands; and a foreigner, a well-informed man, who resides there, assured me, that the number of its inhabitants does not exceed 5000. Odense is larger, but not so populous, and has very little trade for a place which has a seaport at the distance of less than two miles. Middlefahrt and Nyeborg are both insignificant towns, as are all the others that I have seen in the islands of Fünen and Zealand.

Such, as far as my observation extends, is my description of the island of Fünen. It is possible, that those parts which lie at a considerable distance to the right and left of the high road, may be more fertile and better cultivated than those which fell under my notice; but I have reason to think that this island cannot sustain a comparison with many other tracts in Europe, and that it owes its reputation for fertility and a high cultivation to the reports of the Danes, who compare it with the more steril soil of Zealand. I can, at any rate, assert, that in the interior of Sweden I have seen extensive districts, which were far more fertile and better cultivated. That I do not err much in my general opinion on this island, may be seen by the Tables of the Population contained in "Thaarup's Statistical Account of Denmark." That writer states the population of Denmark Proper, in the year 1787, at 840,045 souls, deducting 86,113 for the number of inhabitants at that time in Copenhagen; which must not be considered merely as a town of the Danish islands, but as the capital of the whole monarchy: there remains for Jütland, Zealand, Fünen, and the other islands, no more than 763,912 souls, which is, indeed, a very inconsiderable population for such an extent of country.

If we reflect, that this kingdom has not been involved in a single war of any duration or consequence, since 1718, we may readily

affirm, that no other country in Europe has enjoyed such a peace, excepting, perhaps, Sweden, which during the same period has been engaged in no war, but what was very short and scarcely worthy of notice. What might not, under such circumstances, be expected of a kingdom so advantageously situated for commerce, possessing such an immense extent of coast, and so many harbours? It is, however, the fact, that, with respect to population, agriculture, manufactures, commerce, opulence, and every kind of improvement, this country is far behind most of the southern states of Europe; though the latter are, in general, less extensive, and have been harassed by almost incessant wars. If it be likewise taken into consideration, that Denmark has had no improvident sovereigns during this period, but that it is, on the whole, better governed than many of the southern states, we must admit, that, if the country fall short of our expectation, this circumstance must be attributed to the want of energy in its inhabitants, and to the high northern latitude under which most of the provinces of this extensive kingdom are situated.

The best portion of the Danish dominions is Sleswick and Holstein; and these do not belong to Denmark Proper. According to Thaarup, the number of inhabitants in all Norway, in the year 1769, amounted only to 785,590. The same writer states the population of the whole monarchy, in 1785, at 2,300,000; and in the year 1769, he computed it, yet without mentioning the data on which he grounds his calculation, at 2,390,000. This small population is dispersed over nearly 190,000 square miles; while the electorate of Saxony, on a surface of about 17,500, contains upwards of two millions of inhabitants.

The high road throughout all Funen is sandy and somewhat out of repair. Had we been a few weeks later, we might probably have been able to praise the excellence of its condition. I never saw a more effective method of constructing roads, than that practised in this island; some parts were quite covered with men, horses, and carts. It is not from supposition, but actual enumeration, that I assure you, I saw in one day, not less than one thousand labourers, and upwards of three hundred horses, in the space of 18 miles. They were divided into parties of 30 or 40, who worked close together, and were a few hundred paces distant from the next group. They were not merely employed in repairing the roads, but some parts of it were constructed anew. In many places it was made broader, while, in others, eminences were levelled and hollows filled up.

The passage over the Great Belt, without wind, is extremely tedious. Six hours after our departure from Nyeborg, we were nearer to the coast of Funen than to that of Zealand. The ebb and flood, though they make the sea unpleasant, are, however, attended with great advantages. The colour of the Great Belt is as

beautiful as any part of the sea that I have seen on the British coasts, and is, in no respect, inferior to the seas of the more genial climate of Italy.

I discovered yesterday evening from the shore the island of Langeland, which is 32 miles in length, and we have not yet lost sight of it. As those parts, which we can distinguish, are from 14 to 40 miles distant, it must, consequently, be the more elevated situations, which appear like four or five different islands, while the low lands between them are not discernible. By means of an excellent telescope, I observed that it contains a great quantity of wood; and, from the alternation of hills and plains, it must be a very pleasant and beautiful country.

When we had proceeded about two miles, we perceived the little island of Sprøe, and beyond it, to the right and left, the island of Zealand. Behind us, I could still plainly distinguish the town of Nyeborg, with an extensive tract of Fünen on each side. A large and respectable mansion to the right is the barony of Holvavn, which agreeably enlivens the scene. Near this mansion, a small river runs into the bay; and it may appear not a little singular, but not one of the sailors could tell me its name.—“It is the *Aue*,” (i. e. the river) said they. The same had been the case in Jütland, where nobody knew the name of a river which separates that province from Sleswick, near the town of Kolding. —“It is the *Aue*,” said the postillion; “It is the *Aue*,” I was told at the post-house, and I received the same answer of several other persons.

Büsching likewise denominates it merely the *Koldinger Aue*; and it appears, that many rivers in the North have no proper appellation, but are called after some place near which they flow.

The small island of Sprøe is worthy of notice. It is about four miles in length, but not so much in breadth. It contains only a single farm-house, which I can plainly distinguish at this moment. It lies in the middle of the Great Belt, which in this part is 18 miles over; and in winter is a remarkable station for the post, which regularly stops there. It is conveyed, when the Belt is frozen, in what is termed an ice-boat, to which belong five men. You may judge of the size of the boat, when I tell you, that these five men are obliged, partly to drag, and partly to carry it, with all that it contains, according as the ice, which is frequently uneven, and the drifts of snow, permit. If there are passengers, a larger boat is taken; but all, without exception, must assist to carry. This is the rule, and it is highly necessary; if for no other reason, at least for the personal safety of each individual. These northern seas are never completely frozen: a great number of holes are left, and which could not be crossed without the assistance of a boat. I was very lately informed by a Russian, that it is never possible to go from Petersburg to Cronstadt, entirely

on the ice; but, that it is always necessary to take a boat upon a sledge. In this manner, the boat is carried or dragged along, and used wherever it is found necessary. Sometimes the ice breaks under the weight; the crew then drop the boat, and jump into it. If it fall in a tolerably horizontal position, all is well; but, it frequently sinks only at one end; and at such times, the poor fellows have a dangerous piece of business; yet, I am informed, it very seldom happens, that any person perishes; and still more rarely, that the boat is lost. With this fatiguing and laborious exertion, it occupies the men a whole day to reach the island of Sprøe; where they refresh themselves, and pass the night at the farm-house; and the next morning set out on the second stage to Korsøer. The island of Sprøe belongs to a nobleman of Fünen, who keeps a farmer upon it; but, as it is a regular post-station in winter, the king has erected a building for the accommodation of passengers, whom the farmer furnishes with provisions and other necessities.

The keel of the boat is shod with iron; and it is suspended by cords, from the shoulders of the people, so low, as rather to be drawn along like a sledge, than carried. If the ice be perfectly level, the cords are lengthened; and then the boat is drawn entirely. The reason why this sea is never, or at least, very seldom, completely frozen, is the current which always sets in between the two islands. From Nyeborg to Knutshovel or Canute's Cape, the extreme point of Fünen, is four miles and a half; from the latter to Sprøe the same distance; and from Sprøe to Korsøer nine miles.

At this moment, Langeland appears like twelve different islands, the largest of which is about seven miles distant. This really produces a most delightful effect. At this distance I can perceive that there must be several very lofty hills in the south part of the island. Zealand, which we gradually discover, more distinctly presents an agreeable variety of hill and dale; is woody, and likewise exhibits the appearance of several small islands.

KORSØER, 4 o'clock.

After a passage of nine hours, the greatest part of which we went in the two last, we arrived at Korsøer. As soon as the vessel had reached the shore, I hastened to the post, to order horses. Since that time, during the war in the year 1800, telegraphs were erected on each side of the Belt, which are employed by government for various purposes. Travellers are likewise permitted to make use of them; and, for a trifling consideration, they bespeak horses, lodging, &c. on the opposite shore of the Belt.

The harbour of Korsøer, with the bay belonging to it, is extremely picturesque; but the town is the meanest, most wretched,

and filthy place, that I have yet seen in the Danish dominions. The principal street reminded me of the most miserable villages in Ireland; and the more distant parts, of certain huts which I once saw in Naples, between Salerno and Pœstum; and which, indeed, scarcely seemed to be designed for human habitations.

LETTER II.

JOURNEY FROM KORSÖER TO COPENHAGEN.—SLAGENSE.—KREBSHUUS.—NIGHT IN THE MONTH OF JUNE, IN THIS LATITUDE.—ROSKILDE.—BURIAL-PLACE OF THE DANISH KINGS.—SOIL OF ZEALAND.—COPENHAGEN.—FIRES IN THAT CITY.—NEW MANNER OF BUILDING.—AMALIENBURG —BEAUTIFUL SQUARE IN THAT PART OF THE CITY.—NEW ROYAL MARKET.—PALACE OF CHRISTIANSBURG.—THE EXCHANGE.—BOOKSELLERS' SHOPS THERE.—THE DOCK-YARD.—NEW MANNER OF SHIP-BUILDING.—DEARNESS OF EVERY THING AT COPENHAGEN.—POVERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT.—PALACE OF FREDERICSBERG.—LAND FORCES.—THE PRINCE ROYAL OF DENMARK.—MONUMENT IN HONOUR OF CHRISTIAN VII.—TOWN-RESIDENCES OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.—THE COLLECTION OF WORKS OF ART.—PICTURES.—THE TREASURY.—ROSENBERG.

COPENHAGEN, *June and July 1798.*

WE yesterday arrived in this metropolis, called by the Danes, Kiøbenhavn; but, before I say any thing concerning it, I must complete the account of my journey hither.

We hastened to leave the wretched town of Korsöer, and proceeded to Slagense, a distance of nine miles. Though superior to the former place, Slagense makes a miserable appearance, like all the other towns in Zealand that I have seen. The roads of that island are, however, excellent.

The accommodations for travellers at Slagense being none of the best, those who do not choose to pass the night at Korsöer, usually proceed to Krebshuus, a detached house near Soröe, in a delightful situation, which causes it to be visited, not only by travellers, but frequently by parties of pleasure from Copenhagen. As we found this house full of company, we were obliged that night to go the whole stage, from Slagense to Ringstedt, about 18 miles.

We had never been on the road so late before; and I was glad of the opportunity it afforded me of observing the phenomena of a summer's night, under this latitude, and at this season of the year. The sun set about nine o'clock; but so far to the north, that his greatest distance from the horizon, namely, at midnight, was very trifling. It was still so light, that even at eleven I could distinguish colours at a considerable distance. The moon, it is true, was at the full; but her influence was so confined, that the point of the horizon behind which the sun was concealed, was much lighter than the opposite side, where the luminary of night was arrayed in her highest splendour. I cannot here use the expressions, east and west side, for the brilliant twilight follows the sun; so that, at midnight, the north is the lightest point of the whole horizon. At one o'clock, I could see to read print at the window, at Ringstedt; and at two, when we went to bed, we had perfect day-light.

From Ringstedt, which is an insignificant place, we proceeded on the 28th of June to Roskilde, 19 miles, in little more than three hours. I had read so much concerning the place of interment of the Danish sovereigns, and their magnificent monuments at Roskilde, that it was impossible not to form some idea of them and of the town, which, however, was not answered, either by the one or the other. Busching must have copied his description of the cathedral and what it contains, from some Dane; who, probably, acquired all his ideas of grandeur, splendour, and magnificence, from the specimens he had seen in the Danish islands.

The church is a large, neat, brick edifice, and has a good appearance; but is not distinguished, either for magnificence, or a beautiful style of architecture. Whoever takes pleasure in seeing the coffins of kings, queens, princes, and princesses, cannot perhaps obtain such satisfaction in any other place as in this; for here almost every individual of the reigning family has, for many centuries, been interred. Most of the coffins are far from handsome, and are even mean; by far the greatest number having neither sculpture, carving, nor any kind of durable ornament, but are merely decorated with a covering of black velvet. This looks well as long as it is new; but it makes a wretched appearance after a certain time, when the stuff begins to decay. Some of the persons buried here, have very large,—if you please, very magnificent—marble monuments; amongst which, those of Frederic V. and Christian VI. are the most remarkable: but he who, in works of this kind, seeks something more than pomp, magnitude, and labour;—who looks for taste, execution, expression, and general effect, will find in this place but little gratification; for all these monuments, excepting, perhaps, that of Frederic V. are of very

inferior merit. Some, however, produce a very good effect, and are principally of white marble; but this, either never was perfectly white, or has acquired a yellowish cast, which is not pleasing to the eye; and is less a sign of age, than of a damp, close atmosphere. At least, I never observed this kind of yellow tinge in Italy, even in monuments of much greater antiquity. I sought the tomb of Saxo Grammaticus, and found that it consisted only of a wooden tablet, with some bad Latin verses.

As to the town of Roskilde, it has, for several centuries, been falling to decay; and was on the decline even before the Reformation. It is now a place of no consequence; consisting of a few houses, which are, in general, small and miserable. In the harbour, which was formerly contiguous to the town, but is now a mile distant, I found one ship and some boats. The royal palace is very mean, and is only visited occasionally by the Crown-Prince, who comes hither on the occasion of any funeral of persons belonging to the royal family.

The distance from Korsöer to Copenhagen is 66 miles; in which you do not meet with a single town, or any place that appears to contain 3000 inhabitants. The road is every where broad, and kept in good repair: at the end of each Danish mile, half mile, and quarter of a mile, is erected a post of Norwegian marble, which is of a whitish cast, intermixed with green, shewing the distance from Copenhagen.

The soil of this island, as far as I could observe from the road, is inferior to that of Funen, and is not so well cultivated. The number of villages and detached houses likewise appeared less; so that, comparatively, Zealand must be less populous than Funen; but it is unnecessary to observe, that Copenhagen and the adjacent country must not be taken into the account. The country seemed to be poor; and, upon the whole, I observed much more sandy soil than good land. I saw very little wood; but it is more abundant between Copenhagen and Elsinöer.

COPENHAGEN, 1st July.

This is a handsome city; and is certainly one of the finest capitals in Europe. For its present beauty, it is indebted to two dreadful conflagrations; one of which occurred in 1728, and the other in 1794. The former destroyed 1650 private houses, besides churches and other public edifices; and the latter consumed between 900 and 1000. No part of it, excepting perhaps two buildings, is 200 years old; and the best portion of the city has been erected within the last 60 years.

Copenhagen is divided into three principal parts; the Old Town, the New Town, and Christianshaven. As the first was, for the greatest part, destroyed in 1728, and again in 1794, it is, pro-

perly speaking, the newest portion of the city. The houses are rebuilt in a superior style, and the plan of the streets has been altered; so that, in many places, one street now occupies the space which formerly contained two. In re-constructing them, a peculiar method has been introduced, which I never met with before; but which, from the advantages it affords, is worthy of attention. All the corner houses, instead of forming right angles, are rounded off at the turning; and though this practice spoils the form of the corner-rooms in each story; yet, this is a trifling consideration, when compared with the public benefit with which it is attended.

The New Town and Christianshaven are, consequently, the most ancient parts of the city; and these were built between the years 1588 and 1647. The Seamen's Quarter, which differs greatly from the other portions of Copenhagen, was likewise erected during that period. It contains upwards of 30 streets, all of which are laid out with great regularity; the houses either consist only of a ground-floor, or are but one story high. These huts are small; but their whole appearance is far from contemptible. They are inhabited by the seamen belonging to the navy, and the numerous labourers employed in the dock-yard.

The New Town, as I have observed, is, properly speaking, the most ancient; but to this an exception is formed by a considerable portion, generally called Amalienburg, (from a castle of that name, which formerly stood on this spot) built during the reign of the late king, between the years 1746 and 1765. In strict propriety, this part should be denominated Frederic's Town; for, besides the spot on which the castle of Amalienburg and its gardens formerly stood, it contains several large palaces, and a great number of other respectable buildings. This part of the city would not make a despicable figure either in London or Paris, Rome or Turin, Vienna or Berlin. I was particularly struck with the beauty of a square, of perfectly regular form, composed of four large edifices, and several smaller buildings; and opening into the same number of streets. In the centre is an equestrian statue of Frederic V. in bronze. One of the four principal edifices is inhabited by the king; another by the prince royal of Denmark; the third by the king's brother; and the fourth is the Academy of Naval Cadets. In this quarter are likewise situated many other magnificent structures, as the residence of the duke of Augustenburg, that of count Bernstorff, &c. All the streets round the square are very fine, and contain a great number of large and remarkable buildings, of which I shall only mention the hospital, the institution for lying-in women, Classen-house and library, and Frederic's Church; or, as it is more commonly called, the *Marble Church*. This part of the city appears to be appropriated to

persons of rank and property; and in like manner, the Old Town is inhabited principally by shopkeepers and tradespeople of every description.

The newest houses in the Old Town are built of brick; and most of them are three stories, besides the ground-floor. Their style is neat and simple; but many are embellished with columns and pilasters, and have other claims to architectural beauty.

Another very handsome square in Copenhagen, is the New Royal Market; which is not only the largest in this city, but one of the most extensive that I have any where seen. It is almost entirely composed of stately buildings, as the Academy of Painting and Sculpture; behind which is situated the Botanic Garden, which was formerly a royal palace, called Charlottenburg; the theatre; the great hotel; the artillery-house, &c. In the centre is a marble equestrian statue of Christian V.

The theatre is small; and yet it is the only one in this comparatively extensive city. The performances are in the Danish language; but the house is not opened, excepting when the king is in town.

Religion appears to be out of fashion at Copenhagen, as in most other places. Magnificent churches were formerly erected, while part of the inhabitants frequently wanted a roof to cover them; but I here observed, that none of the churches burned down in the year 1794, have yet been touched. This conflagration began in the Holm behind the arsenal, and the cause has never yet been discovered. As this calamity reduced so many families to the state of houseless wanderers, the government ordered a great number of tents to be pitched in the fields round Copenhagen, for the reception of those who were unable to procure any other asylum. A multitude of small dwellings for the poor have likewise been, from time to time, erected in the ruins of the Great Palace. This beautiful and magnificent edifice, called Christiansburg, was burned at an earlier period, in the same year; and nothing was left standing but the bare walls and the cellars, the vaulting of which was so solid, that the fire could not penetrate. These cellars are still inhabited by poor people. To my knowledge, I never saw a more extensive, more beautiful, and more magnificent palace; indeed, I doubt, whether I ever beheld its equal. How great, how sublime, even amidst its ruins! It is a regular square, inclosing a court. The length of each of the principal sides, or of the body of the edifice, is 367 feet; that of the wings 389; and the height of the former 114. Four thousand persons were supposed to be contained in it, when the whole court was in town; but that number is, probably, somewhat exaggerated. It is of brick, but the body of the building was faced with stone; the wings, as may now be seen, were only stuccoed; but,

formerly, this must have been almost imperceptible. The walls, at their base, are ten feet thick, and rest on nine or ten thousand piles; for the ground being surrounded with water, is so bad, that a sure foundation could not otherwise be obtained.

The palace, like most buildings of this kind, consisted of high and low stories or floors, and had three of each. The lowest part is entirely overarched; and above this is the first floor. Then comes a *mezzanino*, *entre-sol*, or half-floor, which is succeeded by the second story, formerly the apartments of the royal family. Above, is another lofty story, and a low floor with square windows terminates the building. At the top was a balustrade, that went round the whole, inclosing the roof, which was of copper.

As the proportions of this edifice are well preserved, its vast magnitude does not, at the first sight, strike the spectator. The eye, however, obtains a standard, on observing that the first story has been divided into two; and thus, a double range of dwellings is made for the poor. The windows are walled up, but two smaller apertures are left in each; one of which serves for a window to the lower, and the other to the upper apartment. Two staircases are covered, from the top to the bottom, with marble, and have each 183 steps.

Christiansburg affords a striking demonstration of the difference of the times, and the present poverty of the state. This great and magnificent edifice was built by Christian VI. who exacted no aid from his subjects towards its erection. After it was burned, extraordinary taxes were immediately imposed, for the purpose of re-building it; but nothing has yet been done, and many even assert, that the idea is relinquished, probably because the expence is thought too great for the nation to be able to defray.

Since the conflagration, the walls of this building have suffered exceedingly, from exposure to the weather. In the course of ten years, if better measures be not taken than have hitherto been adopted, the whole will be one vast ruin; and it will require immense sums merely to carry away the rubbish, as the materials will certainly, by that time, be unfit for any other purpose. I have frequently visited this palace, and rambled through it with sensations of regret and pleasure.

Near Christiansburg stands the Exchange, one of the few buildings remaining from the time of Christian IV. It is quite in the ancient style; but is a very extensive edifice, 400 feet in length; and is covered with lead. Only the first hall is appropriated to the use of the merchants: it is much frequented. The other part of the basement is occupied by shops. In those of the four booksellers, which are situated in this place, I had reason to remark, how very little connection there is between the neighbouring kingdoms of Denmark and Sweden. I would advise the tra-

veller, who intends to visit the latter country, to procure any maps or books relating to the language or literature of Sweden, which he may want, before his arrival at Copenhagen; for, if he expect to meet with them there, he will run a great risk of being disappointed.

COPENHAGEN, *July 3d.*

We dined yesterday with a Danish general. The whole company spoke nothing but English; and that language seemed perfectly familiar to them all. On this occasion I became acquainted among others, with captain Hohlenberg, master ship-builder to the king, and one of the most distinguished men in that line, in Denmark.

The whole Danish navy lies in the harbour of Copenhagen. Though this arrangement is in many respects very convenient, yet it is attended with great disadvantages, both on account of danger from fire and blockades, or surprises in time of war. The harbour for merchant-ships and that for the men of war, are separated only by wooden piles, or a kind of balustrade. Contiguous to the latter are several islands, denominated Holms, upon which are dock-yards, containing every thing necessary, not only for the building, but likewise the equipment, of ships of war. The house in which the cables are made, is said to be 900 feet in length, and I really think it the longest I ever saw. The thickest cables made there are 20 inches in circumference.

We were conducted to the model-house, which is not usually shewn in other dock-yards; on this occasion it was observed, that no foreigner is permitted to see those at Portsmouth and Plymouth. A complete model of a ship of the line was shewn us. I think I never saw, even in England, any thing more perfect, of more exquisite workmanship, or better calculated to afford an idea of each individual part of a ship. The whole can be taken into very small pieces, so that every thing may be distinguished in the most distinct manner. We were told that several men had been employed nine years on this model.

Mr. Hohlenberg has invented a new method of building men of war, which consists in decreasing the width of the stern, so as to make it much narrower than across the middle, or than the ships of war of any European nation usually are. This method is attended with the advantage, that the three aftermost guns on each side, may be directed so as not only to fire straight forward, but likewise to the right and left. I saw a 24-gun frigate of this construction, nearly ready for launching. It likewise has this peculiarity, that all the knees are of iron. By the alteration, a considerable space is gained in the ship, and the movement of the guns greatly facilitated; for as the iron knee is much smaller than

one of wood, and consequently requires less room, the guns may be pointed in a more oblique direction, either to the right or left. The English, however, are extremely hostile to this new method, and maintain that the knees must absolutely be of wood, because a ship is so much shaken by the firing of the guns, that every part must receive and yield to the shock: but, if the knees are of iron, instead of yielding, they re-act upon the body of the ship with greater violence, so that it is more liable to injury, and in the end, will not last so long as those with wooden knees.—Time must decide who is right.

All men of war, built at this place, are of oak. Fir, which the English occasionally employ, is absolutely rejected. The Zealand oak is held in the highest esteem.

Besides the above-mentioned frigate, a 74-gun ship was on the stocks, but not on Hohlenberg's plan. I thought this vessel very heavy in wood, when compared with an English man of war of the same number of guns, but the Danes obstinately refused to admit the truth of this observation. I had before made the same remark on the Dutch ships.

The whole naval force of Denmark consists at present of 24 ships of the line, the largest of which carries 84, and the smallest 64 guns. Only one, called Christian VII. carries 100 guns; but she is too heavy, and consequently draws too much water for these northern seas, and is, on that account, never used. They could not, or rather would not, tell me the number of frigates and small ships, but I know that it is inconsiderable. The heaviest cannon are thirty-six pounders; the largest English ships carry 42 pounders, but the Danish pound is ten per cent. heavier than the English.

To inspect the Holms, or dock-yards, a special permission from the Court is required. Our names were transmitted to the Crown-Prince, and this regulation extends to all foreigners. Particular precaution has been observed in this respect, since the last conflagration.

Every thing is extremely dear in Copenhagen; and though I should spend more in the course of a year in London, yet here I consider many articles as dearer, because they are so much worse. When things in general are high in price, it is commonly a sign of the opulence, abundance, and luxury of a country; but at Copenhagen the rule appears to be reversed. In England and Holland most articles are dear, on account of the great demand for them; here, on the contrary, every thing is dear, because there is a scarcity of every thing. A housekeeper, of the middling class, informed me that the family of a citizen must live with the greatest frugality, not to spend more than 2000 Danish dollars (each about 3s. 6d. English) per annum.

Even wood is uncommonly dear, though Jütland and Norway abound in that material. The fact is, both those countries export the timber which grows in the neighbourhood of water, not only to the Danish islands, but likewise to England, France, and Holland, and consequently it is not cheap, even on the spot: while the immense woods, which are situated at a distance from the sea, and from any river, are absolutely of no value. Vast quantities every year decay, or are felled and burned, merely for the sake of the ashes, which are then employed as manure.

If the Danes, in general, be poor, the government is in the same situation. It is evidently in the greatest want of money, as every thing connected with it attests. It is unable to rebuild the great palace, though extraordinary imposts have been levied for the purpose; Charlottenburg has been resigned to a private individual; Sophienburg sold; the Hermitage, a small insignificant building, is no longer habitable; and Hirschholm, where 26 years ago the whole court resided, is falling to decay. Even Fredericksburg, now the principal country-residence of the royal family, and where they regularly pass the summer, is in a very crazy condition; and I have remarked certain parts of it, which no English gentleman, with an income of 3000*l.* a year, would suffer to remain near his house. As this palace is situated near the road from Roskilde to Copenhagen, we alighted and walked round it. Excepting two sentinels, not a single living creature was, at first, to be seen. We went into the great court which is enclosed by this extensive building, but a death-like silence every where prevailed. At length I discovered a servant, of whom I asked a few questions, and who, to my no small astonishment, informed me, that all the branches of the royal family were at that moment there. On a second visit I found the same solitude and silence.

The gardens are in the French taste, and are neither laid out in a grand style, nor kept in good order. On that side of the palace towards Copenhagen, runs a walk shaded with trees, bordered by a lofty hedge, and provided with numerous seats, commanding a noble prospect of the city. From this point Copenhagen appears really grand and magnificent: Near it you see the island of Amack, the sea on each side and beyond it, and the Swedish coast in the distance.

The Danish government is poor, and is, therefore, obliged to be economical. The whole revenues of the state do not quite amount to seven millions of dollars; and of this sum, two thirds are expended in the maintenance of the army and navy. I was assured by a Danish general, that the number of the land forces was not less than 60,000 men, which is an immense proportion for a country containing, at the utmost, no more than 2,300,000 inhabitants. All these troops, it is true, are not on duty during

the whole year, and are less prejudicial to the population, because a great part of them are foreigners. The navy likewise requires vast sums, but, to do it justice, it is in the finest order.

The Crown Prince, who is in reality at the head of the government, exhibits an example of great frugality, spending little on his establishment, and still less on his pleasures *. He is extremely active, and in his character predominate a certain regularity and austerity, which are probably the cause that he is, upon the whole, less beloved than, for his many excellent qualities, he deserves to be.

On the way from Copenhagen to Fredericsberg is seen, in the suburbs, the monument erected in 1793 by the city, in honour of his present majesty, because he abolished vassalage, and some time afterwards fixed the term of the duration of the slave-trade. It is a large obelisk of reddish stone, and of a fine form. Around the pedestal are placed four female figures, in white marble, by different artists.

There are no other public works of art of any consequence: you find indeed, here and there, in the churches, what are denominated magnificent monuments; for instance, those of Gùldenlau and Adeler, in the church of Our Lady; but, in point of art, they have little merit, and the man of taste laments such a misapplication of marble, labour, and money. The church alluded to is pretty, and its steeple is reckoned one of the highest in Europe. The statues of the kings which I have already mentioned, are good enough for public ornaments, but cannot, by any means, be classed with the *chef d'œuvres* of the kind.

We likewise visited the houses in the city inhabited by the king and the Crown Prince. The residence of the latter is a good and convenient habitation for a man of rank. In the apartments of his consort are some good pictures. The few that decorated the apartments of the prince, consisted entirely of battles; and I remarked, that the only portrait, excepting one of the princess and the busts of his sisters, was that of Charles XII. The army and navy appear to be the object of his particular attention, and whatever concerns them, his principal occupation. The apartments in the king's palace are tolerably large and commodious; they are furnished and fitted up in a respectable style; in a word, as you would expect to find the house of a man of quality, who lives in a manner becoming his rank and dignity, but is not fond of pomp. They are not suited to the idea of majesty; but, as I have already observed, since the destruction of Christiansburg, the whole family resides in private houses.

* Since the travels of M. Küttner were performed, this Prince has paid the debt of nature. He died in the autumn of 1805.

EDITOR,

In the collection of works of art, in this city, the objects most worthy of notice are the paintings, though their number is not considerable. I found among them some good pieces, and particularly a few by old masters, whose works are rarely met with. I remarked, for instance, two beautiful pieces by Lippi, a predecessor of Raphael, of whose productions I recollect to have seen very few out of Italy. I scarcely ever met with finer paintings of Both than those in this collection. We were shewn a copy of the Venus by Titian, which hangs in the *Tribuna* at Florence, and which we were positively assured was an original. I likewise saw a Holy Family of remarkable beauty, by Honthorst.

Copenhagen has also its treasury, and, if you please, its armory; for that name may, without impropriety, be given to Rosenburg, a castle erected by Christian IV. out of the city, but which is now enclosed by it. This is a stately edifice, and, notwithstanding its antique, but not purely Gothic towers, possesses a certain air of grandeur. Several articles of great value are preserved in this place; and among the rest three silver lions, as large as life; as many vessels of massive gold or silver, and a most extravagantly heavy service of gold plate, off which the king eats on certain occasions. Those who are fond of seeing old Venetian glass, may here find such a collection as scarcely exists elsewhere. The fine woven tapestry was manufactured in the little Danish town of Kiøge, and represents occurrences in the history of Denmark.— The chair in which the king is crowned, is made of the horn of the narwal or sword-fish, and the queen's is of silver. The cabinet of coins, which is also preserved at Rosenburg, is tolerably copious and worth seeing.

I was particularly delighted with the extensive garden contiguous to this castle; not that it possesses extraordinary beauty, or is distinguished for the taste with which it is laid out, but because it is situated within the walls of a large city, and the inhabitants can there enjoy the recreation of a walk, while its trees afford them an agreeable shade.

 LETTER III.

ROYAL PALACE BETWEEN COPENHAGEN AND ELSINÖER.
 —CHARLOTTENLUND.—SOPHIENBURG.—HIRSCHHOLM.
 —QUEEN MATILDA.—THE PARK.—THE OBERVATORY.
 —THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY.—THE KING'S LI-
 BRARY.—ARTISTS.—PAINTERS.—SCULPTORS.—THE
 MARBLE CHURCH.—CLASSEN'S LIBRARY.—THE INSTI-
 TUTION FOR LYING-IN WOMEN.—POPULATION OF CO-
 PENHAGEN.—OF LAPLANDERS AND REINDEER.—OF
 THE LANGUAGE AND DRESS OF THE INHABITANTS OF
 COPENHAGEN.

COPENHAGEN, *July the 5th, 1798.*

IT is only eight days since we arrived at this place, one of which we passed entirely in the country; and yet we have seen every thing worthy of notice in the city, and might have finished sooner if we had pleased.

Between Copenhagen and Elsinöer and in the vicinity of the latter are situated several royal mansions, which the traveller is curious to see, though few of them repay the trouble. From Copenhagen to a considerable distance northward, run three roads, which at length unite in that terminating at Elsinöer. We resolved to take the western, though not the most direct of the three, on our way to Sweden; and to make an excursion on the eastern and middlemost on Sunday. As the eastern runs almost invariably along, or very near the sea-coast, it is sufficiently interesting. The country is, however, far from pleasing. It is, for the greatest part, flat and sandy; and the few villages you meet with, wear the appearance of poverty and misery. They are entirely surrounded by sand; the houses are, in general, without gardens, and have no trees in their vicinity. The proximity of the sea, the varied prospects it presents, and the numerous vessels that are constantly passing and re-passing have, however, induced many to erect country-houses near it; but, among these, I saw none of any distinction.

About two miles from the city is Charlottenlund, a royal mansion, which is so embosomed in wood, that it has not the least prospect. The house, now inhabited by a private family, is insignificant; but the ancient wood of beech trees by which it is

surrounded, is the more beautiful. We then came to a paper-mill, which is considered of sufficient consequence to be laid down in several maps: and soon afterwards to the country-house of the lady of General Von Schimmelmann, where we found her son-in-law, with the Prussian ambassador, and his family. The house itself is not remarkable, but near it is an eminence which commands a view of the Swedish coast, the Island of Hween, situated not far from it, and a great portion of Zealand.

We then proceeded to Sophienburg, and noticed on the way several country-seats; but even here, the country is, in general, sandy and barren. Sophienburg, formerly a royal palace, stands on an eminence, close to the sea, and commands a noble prospect. With a large English telescope, I saw, quite distinctly, the town of Elsinöer, with the adjacent castle of Cronburg, where the unfortunate Matilda passed a whole winter before she was sent to Zell. Farther to the right I discovered Helsingburg, in Sweden; which at this distance, appears to be situated on the same coast with Elsinöer. Sweden trends to the north, in such a manner, that the Sound does not appear open, and the spectator imagines that it is joined to Zealand. Thus, that island and the Swedish coast, apparently, form a bay; which at the moment we saw it, was enlivened by an immense number of ships. It is computed that, upon an average, 10,000 vessels annually pass through the Sound; but, as very few are to be seen in the winter season, you may reckon that, in the summer months, 100 vessels sail by every twenty-four hours. But, as this depends, in a great measure, on the wind, sometimes a prodigious number of them may be distinguished at the same time; and then they afford a spectacle truly sublime. In this prospect is likewise included the Island of Hween, which lies between Sweden and Zealand. It was rendered celebrated by Tycho Brahe, who there passed a portion of his life; but I shall say nothing more concerning it, as it has been circumstantially described by Büsching and Coxe.

Sophienburg is almost 16 miles from Copenhagen; and, at that place, we took another road on our return. In a quarter of an hour we reached Hirschholm, a royal palace, of very great extent; which was formerly the regular residence of the court, and where Queen Matilda passed the last summer of her stay in Denmark. Since that time, it has never been visited by the court; and every thing around the palace presents the appearance of desertion, neglect, and decay. I, however, found the interior of the building in much better condition than its exterior afforded reason to expect. It contains a great number of good apartments, which either are, or might be rendered, habitable with very little expence. Though not in the modern taste, yet they are fitted up in a very decent style.

The man who shewed us the palace, was one of Matilda's domestics : he spoke of his mistress with tenderness and emotion ; and seemed to feel particular pleasure in the recollection of her. He told us, that a masquerade was given at the palace in town, at which the queen was present. When it was over she was taken into custody by General Von Köllerbanner, forced into a carriage, and driven to Cronburg. Her domestics were sent after her ; and this man, who passed the remainder of the winter at that place, afterwards accompanied her to Stade on the Elbe, where she was received by great numbers of the Hanoverian nobility. I looked round, but in vain, to discover some trace of this princess. Not a portrait of any kind was to be seen in the whole palace ; nor yet in the apartments of the Crown Prince. It is natural to suppose that there is none in the King's palace ; they now endeavour entirely to forget this black business ; and, among those who are at all connected with the court, it is never mentioned. The murder of Struensee and Brand is regarded with horror, and the unfortunate fate of the amiable queen is universally lamented. The Crown Prince has pretty plainly expressed his sentiments on this subject. As soon as he was confirmed, that is, when he had attained the age of seventeen, and was placed, in some measure, at the head of the government, the Queen Dowager was obliged to leave Copenhagen, and retire to Fredericsburg, where she died in the year 1796. The prince likewise shewed, in the sequel, a decided aversion to all those who had taken part against his mother.

On our return, we soon arrived at the Park, which is nothing more than an extensive forest, of about 50 square miles, containing scanty pasturage, separated from the wood, and a great number of deer. In an open part of it is situated a small edifice, belonging to the King, called the Hermitage. It was formerly used as a hunting-seat, where the sovereign sometimes passed a night or two ; but is not spacious enough to admit the whole court. The building is in a wretched condition, and, all around it, naked and deserted.

We then entered a thicker part of the wood, and there I beheld a spectacle, which, alone, would have repaid me for the day's excursion. From the 24th of June till the 2d of July, a portion of this forest is the theatre of every kind of diversion ; it is frequented, daily, by immense multitudes ; and particularly on Sundays, many thousands of people there assemble. You see a great number of booths, adapted to company of all descriptions. In these you find eating, drinking, dancing, and a variety of spectacles. These diversions, it is true, have no interest for a person of refined sensibility and superior taste : they are calcu-

lated only for the multitude; and many, merely for the lowest class of the people, and the country-folks, from the adjacent parts. You, however, meet with persons of education among the crowd, who rejoice because so many of their fellow-creatures are delighted; and divert themselves with the ridiculous shews. I observed many a handsome equipage, and smart livery. To a stranger, this scene is particularly interesting, were it only for the opportunity it affords of seeing the various dresses of the people in the different parts of the island.

I made inquiry of several, concerning the origin of this singular festival, which is, besides, of such long duration; but, on this subject, they were all as ignorant as myself. It is probably a very ancient, and, originally, a religious custom. The goddess *Hērtha* resided on the island of *Zealand*, in the sacred forest, which was visited by the people at certain seasons of the year.

We, at length, quitted the motley scene, and came to some barracks, on the scite of which once stood the royal palace of *Jägersburg*; demolished during a former reign. Of the country houses, which I saw between this place and the city, *Count Bernstorff's* appeared to be the most worthy of notice.

Among the acquaintances that I have made here, is *M. Bügge*, professor of astronomy, and overseer of the Royal Observatory. He possesses a collection of astronomical and other instruments, which, for a private person, is very considerable. He conducted us to the Observatory, the largest edifice of the kind I ever saw; and built in a style of grandeur, which forms a striking contrast with the meanness and penury of the present times. It is a tower, 120 feet high, and 70 in diameter; and was erected by King *Christian IV.* for the scholars of *Tycho Brahe*. It is circular; and the interior forms a perfect cylinder; between this and the principal wall, runs a staircase, by which you may ascend; for it forms an angle of five and a half degrees with the horizon; and is, consequently, extremely convenient. This winding staircase ceases before you reach the top of the tower, and makes room for four apartments, which belong to the Observatory. Round the top is a balustrade, within which is the Observatory, properly so called. It is far from large, but has a tolerable collection of instruments; which, though not handsome, are said to be very useful; and possess the peculiar merit of having, with few exceptions, been made at *Copenhagen*. The quadrant is six feet in length. A telescope, by *Schrader*, of *Kiel*, who is still living, is twelve feet long, and of the same construction as *Herschel's*. Here is, likewise, an astronomical circle, of four feet radius, which is entirely divided into 90 and 96 degrees, so that the smallest error in an observation may be detected. Of the other instruments, I shall

say nothing. From the gallery you enjoy a noble prospect over the whole city of Copenhagen, the sea, great part of Zealand, and the coast of Sweden. I amused myself a long time with a good telescope; by the assistance of which, I could plainly distinguish the windows in the houses of Landscreon, though at the distance of 23 miles. I followed the Swedish coast, and found that I could there discern houses at the distance of 38 and even 40 miles.

The tower on which the Observatory is situated, belongs to Trinity Church, and from it a door leads to the library of the University, which is placed between the body and the roof of the church. As far as I am enabled to judge, from a general survey, it is neither very copious nor very respectable. The most remarkable things it contains, are, a number of Icelandic manuscripts; of which, those shewn to me, were very neatly written. If I am not mistaken, they were presented to the library by Arnas Magnæus, with the restriction, that they should never be printed. Notwithstanding this, several of them have been published, either with a Danish or Latin translation, or both. The most considerable Icelandic work that was shewn me, has been printed in three small folio volumes, at the expence of Prince Frederic, who is here denominated the Hereditary Prince, though he is brother to his Majesty. The Latin title of that work is, *Historia Regum Norwegicorum conscripta a Snorrio Sturlæ filio, &c. Havnæ, 1777.* I cast my eye over a printed page, and found not three words resembling any of the languages with which I am acquainted. This library likewise contains some Runic manuscripts.

The Royal library is, in various respects, one of the most considerable in Europe. It is said to be particularly rich in Greek and Roman classics, and natural history. It likewise contains a great number of first editions; that is, of books printed in the 15th century. Among these I saw a work, which I never remember to have met with elsewhere, entitled, *Salemonis ecclesie Constantiniensis epiglosse ex illustrissimis collecte auctoribus, &c.* without date, or the name of the place where it was printed. In this Latin work I observed a great number of old German words. I likewise saw an exposition of the Gospel in the Danish language, printed in the year 1515, at Paris; and the same work, printed in 1518, at Leipzig. These two editions prove the little encouragement which printing, at first, experienced in this country. The first book printed in Denmark, is of the 15th century; and, I believe, of the year 1496. The printer was a German, who came hither from Westphalia. If

they had continued to exercise this art in Denmark, there would have been no necessity 20 years afterwards, to employ the printers of Paris and Leipzig to print a popular work, like the above-mentioned exposition. The art has, however, since made great progress in this island, the presses of which have produced works that would do honour to any country. To these belong, in particular, those very splendid works, the *Flora Danica*, and *Rura Otii*, relating to the mushroom and vegetables of that species. The four Evangelists, in Greek, printed at Copenhagen a few years since, in folio and quarto, are likewise a very fine publication.

This library contains a great number of manuscripts. One of Virgil, on parchment, is particularly beautiful. I saw here mis-sals, which, in beauty and splendour, are equal to any I ever met with in England, France, or Italy. The finest, both for the hand-writing and embellishments, is a French chronicle; in which the pictures are so highly finished, and so exquisitely beautiful in their way, that the first artist of the present day would survey them with pleasure. I was also shewn a Tranquebar bible, which is used by the missionaries at that settlement; but it contains only the Old Testament.

Professor Nyerup was exceedingly polite, and conducted me about for several hours, with the utmost patience. He estimates the number of volumes at 250,000. The whole collection was in the greatest confusion, as it had recently received an accession of 100,000 volumes, by the acquisition of the Suhmian Library. If these numbers appear too high, I have stated my authority. This library is situated not far from the great palace, in a building which is worthy of it. It has a yearly revenue of 3000 Danish dollars; which sum is applied to the purchase of new publications. They seem very anxious to procure new works as soon as possible; for I found many splendid publications, which had appeared in England within the preceding twelve months.

Among the artists whom I have seen in this city, I shall mention the following: The painter Juel was known and esteemed twenty years ago, at Geneva and in Switzerland, before he removed to Copenhagen. He complained that he was principally employed on portraits, and seldom received an order for an historical piece. This is, alas! the fate of almost all the historic painters in Germany and the North. His price for a head is 80 dollars. He is, undoubtedly, a first-rate artist; but, in portrait-painting, he is excelled by Graf, of Dresden. Clornens, who, 20 years ago, engraved the portrait of Bonnet, by Juel, is still living, and resides at Copenhagen.

The painter Lorenzen has taken a great number of views in Norway, which he is now publishing: they are engraved by Haas. He promises many of the beauties of that country: what I saw does not belie this assertion, and proves his good taste in the selection of objects. His talents are above mediocrity; but he, like most of the artists in the North, is obliged to exercise his talents on every subject. I found him employed upon portraits, beasts, landscapes, a screen for the French consul, small, historical pictures, and I know not what besides. It is to be regretted, that his views in Norway are not better engraved. They are sold at three Danish dollars a-piece, which is certainly too high a price. Pauensen, who likewise published some views in Norway, which I have seen, is dead.

Among the sculptors, Wiedewelt is an artist of great abilities; and has produced several works of considerable merit, of which the monument of Frederic V. (which is to be erected in the church at Roskilde, is one of the greatest size: it is colossal. The piece is not yet completed; but I obtained permission to inspect the model. Dasson likewise deserves to be mentioned. Like most of the best artists who reside in this city, he studied in Italy. He executed two of the statutes for the monument erected by the citizens in honour of his present majesty: a third is by Weidenhaupt; and the other, which is attributed to Wiedewelt, is by a Swede, who executed it under the inspection of that master.

While I am speaking of the arts, I ought to take some notice of the edifice called the Marble Church. This edifice is not merely covered with marble, (like the Italian buildings) but is entirely of that kind of stone, procured from Norway, and of a greyish white colour. If I were to say that the structure is a prodigious undertaking, I should convey a very imperfect idea; because every person has a particular standard of comparison. Being struck whenever I passed it, with the huge masses of marble which are partly standing, and partly lie scattered on the ground, I once measured one of the principal columns, and found it to be 27 feet in circumference; and, of course, almost nine in diameter. As these columns are of the Corinthian order, they must be, with their pedestals, at least 90 feet in height. What could induce the Danes to undertake so gigantic a work? The consequence was, that the building was never half completed: for want, it is said, of a proper foundation; but I am inclined to believe, for want of money. The plan is an imitation of the Pantheon; but with considerable alterations, which principally consist in deviating widely from the beautiful simplicity of the original. They are now beginning to work upon it after a new plan, by which the edifice will be made much smaller than was originally proposed.

The building containing Classen's Library is not large, but displays great taste. Besides a great number of legacies to various institutions, that rich and excellent officer left separately a large collection of books, which is now open to the public.

The lying-in hospital at Copenhagen is reckoned one of the best schools of the obstetric art to be any where found. It is frequented by many young practitioners, some of whom come from a great distance to study this branch of their profession. Upon an average, 1000 persons are annually delivered in this institution; so that the students are in continual practice, and have an opportunity of seeing in a very few years all the varieties of cases that can occur.

This institution is properly a kind of foundling-hospital, in which mothers may not only place their children, but where they may also be delivered. All pregnant women, of whatever condition, religion, or country, are admitted, without being asked any questions; they are even allowed to come in masks, and to retain them during their residence here. The building formerly had, in an aperture in the wall, a machine similar to those which I have seen at Milan, and in other foundling-hospitals;—in which a person may place the child, turn the machine inwards, then ring the bell, and go away. This however has been removed; and the king has ordered that every female who presents herself shall be admitted, only with certain limitations as to time. Married women frequently apply for admittance; and, at their departure, are even at liberty to leave their children behind them. Women too of rank and property avail themselves of this establishment, because they here find better attendance, and more conveniences, than they could possibly enjoy in their own houses; and for which they, of course, pay. The best accommodations for ladies of this description cost fifteen dollars per week. There are other apartments at twelve, and others again as low as eight dollars.

The lodgings of the single are separate from those of the married women. In this regulation, I thought I discovered a distinction made between the children of love and the offspring of the marriage bed; which, in an institution of this nature, appears rather improper. I was, however, informed, that the regulation was introduced, lest the former ladies, by living among the latter might meet with some of their acquaintance, and thus be discovered. The apartments for twelve and fifteen dollars are handsome; and, in general, spacious and convenient. At my desire, I saw several rooms for the reception of those who are gratuitously admitted into this institution; and found them all clean, commodious, and comfortable.

Lectures on midwifery are regularly held at this place, both for male and female practitioners, but at different hours; and here all the midwives in the Danish dominions are presumed to have studied their profession.

The different accounts which I collected relative to the present number of inhabitants in Copenhagen, concurred in representing it as exceeding 80,000. Thaarup states it according to an actual enumeration in 1794, at 86,133. This must have been soon before the great fire, since which time the population has considerably decreased. By the enumeration made at the close of the year 1799, it was found to amount to 83,618.

I endeavoured, but in vain, both at Copenhagen and Gothenburg, to procure a rein-deer's skin, which, in houses where the accommodations are bad, the traveller finds a great convenience. It is an article to which the inhabitants of Denmark and the south of Sweden are almost as great strangers, as to the people among whom the rein-deer are produced. A Laplander is as rarely found in Stockholm or Copenhagen, as in Germany: and in the latter city, his country appears scarcely to be considered as a part of the Danish dominions. I am surprised that the king does not keep rein-deer; for we know that they can live in the 55th degree of latitude. Sir Harry Liddell, whose estates are situated near Newcastle, in Northumberland, and are nearly in the same latitude as Copenhagen, carried some of these animals to England where they lived several years, and even propagated. It is true, they all perished in a severe winter: but probably less on account of the cold, than other circumstances; particularly as the baronet had sent back the Lapland women whom he brought over with him, and who at first attended them.

If I found little inconvenience in the Danish islands from my ignorance of the language, in Copenhagen I experienced none at all. In this respect, I think that city perfectly *unique*. It has its peculiar language; and yet all the inhabitants understand that of a country which is not only at a considerable distance from theirs, but even separated from it by a sea. I think that, during my residence at Copenhagen, I met with no more than two persons who did not understand German. It was during the reign of the late king that the latter language came into such general use here. His present majesty was very partial also to the German nation, the individuals of which are very numerous in this city. It is only within these few years, that the Dane appears to pride himself in having a language of his own. All the ordi-

nances of government, as well as the public inscriptions, are, since the same period, given in the Danish language.

The dress of the Danes does not differ in any remarkable degree from that of other nations. Persons of rank, and tradespeople, at Copenhagen, dress nearly in the same manner as in the other European capitals. Some difference is, indeed, observed by the peasantry; but this consists rather in the colour than in the shape of their clothes.

LETTER IV.

COUNTRY BETWEEN COPENHAGEN AND ELSINÖR.—FREDERICSBORG.—FREDENSBURG.—EL SINÖR.—CRONBERG.—MARIENLUST.—THE SOUND.—THE TOLL PAID THERE BY VESSELS.—NUMBER OF SHIPS WHICH PASSED THROUGH THE SOUND FROM 1786 TO 1797.

EL SINÖR, 8th July, 1798.

THE high road from Copenhagen to this town runs through Hirschholm; and the distance is twenty-eight miles. As we had already been as far as the latter place, and were desirous of seeing two palaces which before lay too far out of our road, we went now by the way of Lyngbye (or Sans-Souci), Fredericsborg, and Fredensburg. This makes the distance thirty-three miles, which we were obliged to travel without changing horses. This is the best and most interesting tract that I have seen in the island of Seeland. The soil is of a superior quality, and more highly cultivated, the population greater; and, in a word, the general appearance of the country is more pleasing, than in the other parts of the island. Besides the park, we see various other woods, and enjoy a view of several lakes, and at length of the sea. The estates of Count Bernstorff, through which we pass, appear to me to be in excellent condition: the peasantry upon them have been free these thirty years. Near the road stands a pyramid, erected by them to shew their gratitude to their benefactor, a member of the family of Bernstorff, who conferred on them this privilege. It must be observed, however, that this monument was not erected till several years after his death; because it was probably not till then that they felt in its full extent, what they at first regarded as no very great benefit.

Sans-Souci is a country-seat of Prince Frederic, with a handsome garden. Soon after we had passed it, we had some charming views of the lake of Arre, which is of considerable extent.

Fredericsborg is in many respects a distinguished edifice, and well worth seeing. It is the finest and most complete monument of the taste and magnificence of former periods; being erected by Christian IV., who reigned between the years 1588 and 1610. Though the apartments may have been somewhat modernized, yet the principal parts (particularly the church and the splendid hall of the knights) have remained the same as they were at the time of their construction. In general, edifices built about two centuries ago have either fallen to decay, or have undergone so many alterations in a more modern taste that very little of the original style is left. This, on the contrary, is in complete preservation; and conveys a high idea of the magnificence and Gothic pomp of those times. It consists of three principal parts; of which the chief structure (containing the royal apartments) possesses so much Gothic beauty, and is of such a magnitude, that even the most zealous admirer of Grecian architecture cannot behold it without pleasure.

Prolix descriptions of objects of this kind are always tedious; I shall, therefore, only remark of the church, and the hall of the knights, that I found in them a pomp, and a profusion of art, of which I scarcely conceived that the Danes, at that distant period, had any idea. They frequently, indeed, employed foreign artists; and from remote countries: but those who erected this structure cannot have been Italians; for 200 years ago the buildings and decorations in Italy were in a very different style, and in a much nobler taste. The figures, ornaments, and execution, have a great resemblance to the altars at Sleswick and Odense, which I have already mentioned.

The ceiling of the church, as well as of the hall of the knights, consists of a great number of compartments, ornamented with gilt carved work and sculpture, and containing a vast quantity of figures, some of which represent historical facts. Whatever is not gilt, is painted in natural (and sometimes in very unnatural) colours. The inlaid work is endless. The altar, of ivory and ebony, is an admirable piece of workmanship; and the figures imbossed in silver are not amiss. The paintings in the church, and in the royal apartments, are not contemptible; but of those which are intended to decorate the hall of the knights, very few are tolerable: there are, however, many copies of excellent and well-known pieces among them. The floor of this hall is entirely of marble. The arms of all the living knights, of the orders both of the Elephant and of Danebrog, were to me extremely interesting.

Though the whole of this palace is ancient and Gothic, yet the apartments are still habitable, and have been occasionally occupied during the last twenty-two years. With a very trifling expence they might be rendered agreeable, and even serviceable, according to the ideas of the present time. At the entrance of the principal court are placed a great number of statues, which I cannot commend as beautiful specimens of the art, but which are far superior to what I have seen of the same period in Germany, France, and England. The palace is surrounded with water: on one side it commands a view of a small lake; a village situated on the banks of which forms a very picturesque object.

From this place to Fredensburg the distance is about four miles. Of all the king of Denmark's palaces, this has the most agreeable appearance, is kept in the best repair, and is the most habitable. The reason probably is, that Juliana, the queen-dowager, past the last years of her life entirely here. The building is not large; the garden is laid out in a peculiarly singular style, and more money has been expended on it than on any other belonging to the king.

As we approach Elsinör, the sea (both the Baltic and the Cattegat) which separates Jütland from Sweden, opens gradually to the view. We suddenly obtain an extensive prospect of the Swedish coast; in which the town of Helsingburg makes a very agreeable appearance, thus promising much more than it performs. The purity and serenity of the atmosphere of this climate in summer may be judged of from the circumstance, that long before we descended from the eminences, we saw Helsingburg so distinctly, and it seemed so near, that we could not suppose it to be above two miles distant from Elsinör. We were assured, however, that it is more than twice that distance; and this likewise agrees with all the accounts I have seen, which state the breadth of the Sound at this place to be between four and five miles.

Elsinör is looked upon as the second town in the Danish islands. Its situation is infinitely more pleasant than that of Copenhagen, and its trade is considerable. It contains a great number of wealthy merchants; who, with the consuls of so many different nations that reside here, form a numerous society, hold clubs, and in winter give balls, &c. The English Consul, however, informed me that the number of the inhabitants scarcely amounts to five thousand. On the whole, I found here a cleanliness and neatness which reminded me more of England than any place I had yet seen in Denmark; and this was particularly the case with several private houses.

The finest object at Elsinör is the fortress called Cronberg; which is, in fact, nothing more than a royal palace strongly

fortified. It has had given to it, indeed, the appearance of a fort, guarding the entrance of the Sound, and defending Elsinör. This seems to me extremely ridiculous; for the castle is built in such a manner, that a few men of war would, in a short time, level it with the ground, in spite of its fortifications and batteries towards the sea. It is very lofty; and every where presents level surfaces, which would make little resistance to bombs, or even to cannon-balls. It is constructed entirely of free-stone, and is one of the finest and most magnificent Gothic buildings that I have any where seen. It was erected in the sixteenth century; and yet the ornaments, though they bear the stamp of their style and age, are elegant, and by no means overloaded, as is generally the case in this species of architecture. The whole is kept in good repair, and has a more agreeable and cleanly appearance than any structure of the kind that I have seen in Denmark. Besides the royal apartments (which are insignificant) it contains the residence of the commandant, a church, a corn-magazine, and the other usual accompaniments of a small fortress.

In one part of the castle is a platform. This, and the court of the castle, (which is completely inclosed by the four sides of the principal structure) were the only places in which Queen Matilda was permitted to take the air: the walk round the castle, within the fortifications, is very pleasant; but from that indulgence she was debarred. The view from the platform is delightful. The eye follows the Swedish coast towards the north for many miles, perhaps forty or fifty, while towards the south it can discern the steeples of Copenhagen. The liveliness of this scene is greatly augmented by the numerous vessels which are almost always lying in the Sound, awaiting a favourable wind, either to go out or sail in. The toll which they pay at this place, and other circumstances, likewise occasion some delay.

Among other objects, the palace of Marienlust, a new but not extensive building belonging to the Crown-Prince, makes a very good appearance. It stands on a small steep hill, on the sides of which have been made several paths in the manner of terraces. The garden is denominated Hamlet's Garden, and here that prince is said to have resided. His whole history, however, rests only on the veracity of Saxo Grammaticus, who has given a strange account of it in his own way.

It is well known that vessels passing between the Baltic Sea and German Ocean, sail neither through the Great nor Little Belt, but through the Sound, and pay a toll at Cronberg. The English Consul estimated the annual amount of this toll, during late years, upon an average, at 200,000*l.* sterling. Out of this sum, the king of Denmark maintains all the light-

houses on the coasts; as high as the Skaw, the northernmost point of Jütland, and down again as far as Copenhagen, and even some on the Swedish coast. A certain duty is, indeed, paid besides for this purpose; but it is very trifling, and does not nearly reimburse the government for the expence. The English, French, Dutch, and Swedes, pay one *per cent.* and all other nations one and a quarter. This tax is not so great as at first sight it appears to be. It is levied neither upon the estimated value of the goods, nor the selling price, nor the prime cost, but upon the price at which each article stood several centuries since. Some goods, however, are charged according to their present value.

Büching, in his Geography, has given (in treating of Elsinör) the number of ships which passed through the Sound between the years 1768 and 1785. I shall subjoin a continuation of his statement to the present time, with which I was favored by one of the consuls.

| | | | Vessels. |
|-------------------|---|---|----------|
| In the year 1786, | - | - | 9008 |
| 1787, | - | - | 9747 |
| 1788, | - | - | 9224 |
| 1789, | - | - | 8847 |
| 1790, | - | - | 9738 |
| 1791, | - | - | 10,453 |
| 1792, | - | - | 12,114 |
| 1793, | - | - | 9926 |
| 1794, | - | - | 10,510 |
| 1795, | - | - | 7953 |
| 1796, | - | - | 12,113 |
| 1797, | - | - | 9723 |

On a comparison of these twelve years with the fifteen of which Büsching has given a list, it will be found that the number of ships passing through the Sound has greatly increased, notwithstanding the canal between Holstein and Sleswick now takes off a considerable number of the vessels sailing from the North Sea to the Baltic, or in a contrary direction.

 LETTER V.

PASSAGE OF THE SOUND.—HELSINGSBURG.—MANNER OF TRAVELLING POST IN SWEDEN.—THIS SYSTEM OPPRESSIVE TO THE PEASANTRY.—SCARCITY OF SPECIE.—RAMLÖSA.—HALMSTADT.

HELSINGBORG, and HALMSTADT, *July 8th and 9th, 1798.*

WE crossed the Sound, with a strong breeze, in thirty-five minutes; but remained half an hour longer on the water, before we reached the pier which forms the harbour of Helsinburg. This is an insignificant place. It procures from Elsinör most of the foreign commodities which it consumes; and we should not have remained here the rest of the day, had it not been for the various arrangements and preparations which a journey through Sweden absolutely requires.

Hitherto we had travelled in the manner which, with more or less variation is customary in all the civilized countries of Europe. Here, however, this method ceases: for in Sweden there are no postillions: and the peasants who furnish the horses, are not used to drive a large carriage. Every pair of horses is generally accompanied by a man, who suffers the stranger to do with them exactly as he pleases. He gives himself no concern, except to look for a spot about the carriage where he may seat himself, and thus he carried along; or, at most, he rides one of the fore horses, but this he does with great reluctance. At Helsinburg the traveller is therefore obliged to provide himself with a driver for the whole journey; who likewise serves for an interpreter, as far as his knowledge extends.

In Sweden there are neither post-masters nor post-horses; but the government has adopted such regulations, that I know no country in Europe where we can travel extra-post, in every direction, so well as in this. The whole southern part of the kingdom (that is, the portion south of Upsal) is intersected by innumerable roads; all of which are so well supplied with horses, that we proceed without impediment, if we only observe the necessary precautions. The country is divided into stations; to each of these is attached a certain number of horses, which the peasants

inhabiting the district are obliged to furnish. At every station a person is appointed (who is called *hallkarl*, and is either a peasant or the master of a public-house) whose business it is to collect the horses that are required. But as the peasants who furnish them frequently live at the distance of four or five miles from the stations, the traveller would make but little progress if he had to wait at each till the horses were assembled. He therefore writes, every evening, a note, mentioning the stages which he intends to go the following day, and at what hour he expects to arrive. This note is sent from stage to stage by peasants who are called messengers; and who receive nothing for their trouble, but are merely paid for their horses at the post rate. In this manner the order is conveyed to the different *hallkarls*, each of whom forwards it by a fresh messenger, and provides the horses for his own stage by the appointed hour.

This system of posting appears to me one of the most grievous burthens by which the Swedish peasants are oppressed. Let it be ever so inconvenient and prejudicial to their interest (as it is in particular at certain seasons of the year), they are obliged, when called upon, to leave their fields, perhaps in the midst of harvest, and to hasten with their horses to the adjoining station, which is probably at the distance of two miles or more from the spot where they happen to be. They are, besides, required gratuitously to repair all the roads (which are kept in excellent condition) and in this are not even paid for the labour of their horses. For posting, the price of each horse is eight Swedish schillings (about sixpence sterling) for each mile, which is equal to nearly seven miles English. At the same time, their cattle are driven unmercifully; for, as they do not drive themselves, the coachman keeps them almost always in full trot or gallop. The peasant seldom makes any remonstrance, probably because he knows that it would be of no avail.

An article which it is highly necessary to provide a stock of, is specie, as a traveller may sometimes not come to a place during a whole day where he is able to procure any. In fact, there is scarcely any coin in circulation, either here (at Helsingburg) or in the adjacent country, or indeed in the whole kingdom. As I had heard so much on this subject, I applied betimes to our host, who is an opulent man, and keeps a good house. He told me he had not three schillings (a schilling is about three farthings) in the world, but that he would send out to the shops. I gave him a two-dollar bill, at which he laughed, and said it would scarcely be possible to scrape together such a sum in all Helsingburg. I requested him at least to try; and with much trouble and difficulty he at length procured me change for one dollar, in

upwards of one hundred pieces of copper of different kinds, but with a loss of nineteen *per cent*. I imagined this was an error, but was soon informed that it was perfectly right. Whoever wants copper must put up with this loss; but as the natives seek to avoid that coin as much as possible, they keep little or no specie, but transact all their business with paper. Their smallest notes are of twelve schillings (nine-pence sterling); so that I have known instances when travellers, for want of change, have been obliged to leave large notes behind them, at places where they had only two or three schillings to pay.

We went this afternoon to Ramlösa; a place about three miles from Helsingburg, celebrated for its mineral waters, and much frequented by people of rank. The spot is highly romantic: but I saw no building; except a miserable house (or rather a hall) constructed of wood, where tea, coffee, and lemonade, are served. Upon paying twelve schillings we are admitted, and obtain a right to refreshments. The number of persons of all classes which I saw there, was very great. The common people thronged round the house, or climbed up on the rails by which it is surrounded, to see the fine folks in and before the place. For my part, I cannot conceive whence all the genteel company can come, who drive to this place in splendid equipages, with two, four, and six horses. Our host informed us that they were partly from the neighbouring gentlemen's seats, and also many strangers from different parts of the kingdom, particularly Stockholm: but he could not tell where they all find lodgings, for very few reside at Helsingburg; and as to the gentlemen's seats, I could scarcely discover from the eminences near the town, which command a tolerably extensive view, a single creditable house in all the adjacent country as far as my eye could reach.

A small work in French, intended to serve as a guide to the Swedish mines, was brought to us by a woman for sale. For this purpose it is extremely useful; and I recommend it to all travellers, because it contains the Swedish post-map, which I had such difficulty to procure at Copenhagen:—the title is, *Guide du Voyageur aux Carrierès et Mines de Suede, par M. d'Engeström*.

Halmstadt, which was the termination of our first day's journey, is called by Büsching a pleasant and well-built staple town. This, however, we could not discover; nor the *convenient* residence of the governor, which has not a very inviting appearance. The place is, notwithstanding, superior to most of the small towns in the Danish Islands that I have seen.

 LETTER VI.

COUNTRY BETWEEN HELSINBURG AND GOTHENBURG.—
 SWEDISH HORSES.—EXCELLENT CONDITION OF THE
 ROADS.—GOTHENBURG.—POPULATION.—SUBURBS.—
 ADJACENT COUNTRY.—EAST INDIA TRADE.—HERRING
 FISHERY.—TROLHÄTTA.—NEW CANAL.—WENNERS-
 BURG.—LIDKÖPING.—KINNE-KULLE.—SWEDISH
 INNS.

GOTHENBURG, *July 11th, 1798.*

THE country between Helsingburg and Gothenburg is, I am informed, one of the worst tracts in the south of Sweden. I found it indeed barren, sandy, extremely thin of inhabitants, and badly cultivated: I however remarked many pieces of good land, but not in a state of cultivation. Nature has clothed them with herbage, but has received no assistance from human industry. I observed scarcely any thing; all the way, but single detached cottages; or if I saw what is denominated a village, it consisted only of a few huts, with scarcely any of those accompaniments which in other countries belong to the habitation of the farmer. Here are neither stables, barns, nor gardens, to give the farm-house an appearance of comfort and respectability, to which the Swedish cultivator is an utter stranger. The only building is a small wooden cottage, which commonly comprises the stable and the barn under the same roof; and frequently not a single tree is to be seen near it. Vegetables are equally scarce. But the Swedish peasant is not partial to these: he eats a great quantity of animal food, and hard rye-bread; but in the more northern provinces oat-bread, and likewise potatoes,—though he long hesitated to make use of the latter, as has been almost universally at first the case in countries where that excellent root has been introduced.

The towns through which we pass'd were six in number, exclusive of Helsingburg, and Gothenburg. Halmstadt, Warberg, and Kongsbacka, appeared to me the best among them; having a considerable number of good houses (partly of wood

and partly of brick), broad streets, and a tolerably clean appearance. All of them, without exception, have no walls: they cover a considerable extent of ground; for between the houses is generally a vacant space for a small yard, a garden, or something of that kind. They are consequently healthy; and this mode of building is attended with great advantages in cases of accidents by fire, in a country where most of the houses are entirely of wood. They are commonly painted red, but sometimes dark yellow. Engelholm, Laholm, and Falkenberg, are very insignificant. Warburg has a fort or castle, situated on a lofty rock which projects into the sea. I met with a similar edifice at Halmstadt used as a place of confinement; and in which the prisoners begged at the windows as they do in Italy.

With regard to the general aspect of the country, this district of Sweden is rather level than mountainous: the traveller constantly sees hills in the vicinity, and passes over several, but they are not high. Such a country forms, upon the whole, a tolerably agreeable picture: we now and then traversed spots which were extremely beautiful; being overgrown with brush-wood, and broken by the varied forms of naked rocks and verdant hills. I was more particularly pleased with the country about Kongsbacka; where the soil is better cultivated, and the houses of the country people appear incomparably more clean, neat, and comfortable, than in the rest of this tract of 150 miles. The country-folks were every where decently clothed; but I here and there observed people who went barefooted, a circumstance that very rarely occurred in the Danish dominions.

White bread is an article which I have not yet seen in Sweden; at least, I have met with none to answer our ideas of that term. Here (at Gothenburg) I gave great offence at a table to which I was invited, because I imagined that the bread I was eating was a mixture of wheat and rye. I was informed that it was made entirely of wheat; but I can neither praise its colour nor its taste. Besides this bread, another kind, which is more palatable, may be had; made only of rye, in cakes about a quarter of an inch thick, and resembles the English sea-biscuit, requiring also excellent teeth to break as well as to chew it. In Scotland, and the North of Ireland, I every where met with cakes of the same kind; only with this difference, that they are made of oats. When I once spent a whole month in the county of Londonderry, I became very fond of these oat-cakes; till I discovered that they heated my blood, and produced small red spots on the skin: to the Swedish, on the contrary, I never was able to accustom myself; and from the beginning to the end of our journey in that country, the want of good bread was our greatest cause of complaint.

It was about midnight when we arrived at Gothenburg. The night was delightful, and perfectly serene; and in this case it affords real pleasure to travel in these latitudes.—Upon the whole, I was amused on the road by many things very different in this country from any which I had yet met in other European states. We were particularly diverted by the lively and comic scene which generally ensued upon our arrival at any place. Represent to yourself, for example, a single detached hut, perhaps at some distance from the high road, in an uninhabited country, where nothing is further from your thoughts than a post-station. The coachman stops in the middle of the road; and sets up a loud shout, without your knowing the cause. The door of the hut (situated probably several hundred paces from the high road) immediately opens; the peasants, the *hallkarl* and his family, sally forth, and hasten to bring the horses, which are already in waiting. My companion and I alight to stretch our legs; the servants, who ride behind, do the same: the coachman and the *hallkarl* are as busy as possible in harnessing the horses; which are attended by three peasants, and we bring with us the same number. There are consequently twelve men, and the same number of horses, who are running against each other, shouting, quarrelling, cursing, kicking, and neighing. It rarely happens however, that even this number does not receive a considerable augmentation. The *hallkarl* has children, a wife, or some acquaintance in his house. One or another of the peasants has brought with him a boy, or some friend who happens just at that moment to have nothing else to do. All these run out to see the strangers; and if there are any country-people in the adjacent fields, they likewise hurry to the spot. Thus you frequently hear five languages at once, in a space not larger than the ground occupied by a moderate house, and where two minutes before, not a human creature was to be seen. My companion and myself generally speak English; but I am obliged to address the coachman in German, and to make frequent pauses while he storms and curses at the poor peasants in his native language. Our Italian, who is in the mean time extremely officious, and who in fact understands no language at all (for his own he has partly forgotten), speaks in four different languages in a breath, because unfortunately it seldom happens that any one comprehends his meaning; he therefore attempts successively Italian, German, English, and French. I am certain that the Swedish peasants understand none of these languages; and yet he generally obtains what he wants.—If the station is in a village or its neighbourhood, the peasants are always accompanied by a great number of spectators. In towns these are still more numerous; because very few travellers visit this country,

and probably many are allured by the beauty of the carriage, which kind of vehicle they very seldom have an opportunity of seeing.

The Swedish horses are uncommonly small, and many of them have the appearance of half-grown colts. Though these animals are also badly fed, yet they possess considerable strength, and never want inclination. They invariably ascend a hill at full trot, and sometimes in a gallop. They never receive food or water by the way; and even at the numerous gates which are met with on the roads (and which are erected by the peasants to prevent their cattle from getting out of the pastures into the corn-fields), the carriage never stops; but one of the peasants jumps down with great dexterity, opens the gate, runs a little distance by the side, and then leaps again upon the box, though the horses may be going at full gallop.

I had frequently heard of the excellence of the Swedish roads; and had been assured by many travellers that, upon the whole, they were better than those of England. This I heard, like many other things, without giving credit to the account; I have, however, found it to be strictly true. The southern part of Sweden is intersected by these roads in every direction. If we merely look at the post-map, at certain places and roads which run from it in ten different directions, we should suppose it to be the country about Pekin in China, or at least that round London. From Upsal (a small town which neither has any trade nor a numerous population) run nine high roads; and between Stockholm and Dalecarlia, a tract of less than seventy miles in extent, there are twelve roads, which partly run parallel, and partly intersect each other. Beyond the sixty-first degree the roads are, indeed, not so numerous; but some of them run throughout the whole country: for instance, that from Stockholm to Tornea runs all round the gulf of Bothnio, through the whole of Finland, and is continued to Petersburg. This road is regularly supplied with post-horses in every part, even in the Russian dominions. The principal of these roads were constructed by the command of Charles XI, and their number has since been considerably increased. They are repaired regularly twice in the year; exclusive of the amendments occasionally made when any part has received damage, and which must be performed gratuitously by the peasant who lives nearest to it.

Göthenburg ranks as the second town in Sweden; and as such I was certainly disappointed in my expectations. Since the fire in 1758, many of the houses have been rebuilt with brick; but the greatest part are still of wood. These wooden houses have however a very pleasing, clean, and neat appearance; being mostly fresh painted, and some of them large and spacious.

buildings. Those of brick form a medium between the English and Dutch manners of building, but approach the nearest to the former. The Swedes are very unwilling to renounce their wooden habitations; because they are accustomed to them, and find them warmer than those of stone, which last is an important object in this latitude. The expence is likewise a principal consideration, they being by far cheaper than the brick.

The square, on both sides of the river Ham, would do credit to any town. The river itself is considerable; but in the town it appears like a broad canal, bordered on each side by a public street or quay, composed of large handsome houses. Here are situated the Exchange; and the very extensive building belonging to the East-India Company, which has three directors who reside here. All the other streets are likewise respectable, and the houses have an external appearance of cleanliness which promises a corresponding neatness within. Besides the great canal or river Ham, several smaller streams run through part of the town. The former is deep enough for large merchantmen, so that they can unload within the walls.

The town itself, which is enclosed by fortifications, is small, and does not contain above 1200 souls; but the suburbs are of considerable extent, the houses being much scattered in different directions. Towards the harbour, the suburbs look like a distinct place, and afford at a distance a very pleasing view. In the town and suburbs together, Mr. Chalmers, one of the directors of the East-India Company, reckons upwards of twenty-two thousand inhabitants; but Mr. John Hall, an opulent merchant residing here, estimates the number at only twenty thousand. The truth is not accurately known; for the population of the place has increased of late years, and is still increasing.

The works round the town accord very little with our present ideas of fortification, and are not kept in the best repair. They command an extremely interesting and romantic prospect. Gothenburg is situated in a plain, almost entirely surrounded with naked rocks. These rocks project in two places into the town; and form eminences which afford a fine view, particularly of the port, the Gotha-elf or river, and the island of Hisingen. This latter spot is of considerable extent: its west side is composed almost entirely of naked rocks; and it protects the town from the fury of the North Sea, and the violence of the west winds; which latter are common, and give the trees (exactly as in Ireland) an inclination to the east, sometimes stripping them also of part of their leaves.

The level country round Gothenburg is tolerably well cultivated; but the large tract of plain situated on each side of the river Gotha, is partly swampy and partly inundated. This

is, at least, the case at present and during a great portion of the year. I have been told that great quantities of wheat are raised in these parts ; but I have not yet been able to discover a single field of that kind of grain, and am strongly inclined to doubt the truth of this information.

I saw scarcely any fruit-trees ; and though I always looked attentively, on the road from Helsingburg I observed only two small orchards. When I made enquiries on this subject at Gothenburg, I was assured that apples, pears, and cherries, arrive at maturity here. I know that great quantities of apples are produced farther up the country, between Gothenburg and Stockholm ; but I should imagine that the violent west winds, on these coasts of the North Sea, cannot be very favourable to fruits in general. In the Exchange I once saw two women with cherries, each of whom had a pewter measure containing about a quart. Mr. Chalmers enquired the price of one of them, who asked twelve schillings (about nine-pence English) for the measure. Some which I ate in a family, and which were brought from their country-seat, looked well, but were watery and insipid. Nevertheless, the present is an uncommonly dry summer ; every thing is three weeks or a month earlier than usual ; and for five weeks there has been no rain, except a little yesterday and to-day.

We dined and supped yesterday at a great house. The furniture and decorations were good, and nearly equal to those of persons of the second rank in England. When we entered the dining-room, the mistress of the house placed herself at the table ; but the men, instead of sitting down, went to a small side-table, where they took a piece of cake, or hard-bread and butter, and a glass of spirits. The conversation was in English or French, both of which languages were understood by all the company.

I mentioned above, that bricks are employed reluctantly for building by the inhabitants of this place. Stone is never used for that purpose. In this point, with the usual affected sagacity of a traveller, I might assign the want of taste in the Swedes ; who give the preference to brick, and still more to wood, while they have the finest stone lying before their doors. This would, however be a very superficial observation ; for the inhabitants of towns are not so destitute of taste as they sometimes at the first view appear to be, to those who are unacquainted with all the circumstances. The stone, of which I saw whole hills in the town, is principally granite of the hardest species ; and even the other stone which is found intermixed with it, is so extremely hard,

that the labour of working it would be much more expensive than brick. Even the posts of the windows and doors are very seldom of stone.

The East-India commerce, which never was very important or employed a large capital, is continually decreasing, because the English have almost entirely monopolized that branch of trade. On the other hand, the town has of late years obtained great profits from the herring-fishery; which thrives exceedingly, and is in part the cause of the augmented population. But the Swedish herrings are not to be compared to the Dutch; nor even, in my opinion, to those of Prussia.

I have just returned from viewing the harbour, where I enjoyed a spectacle inexpressibly beautiful in its kind. As soon as we leave the gate of the town, we enter the suburbs, the houses in the lower parts of which appear to belong to opulent people. They are entirely of wood; but, being constantly kept fresh-painted, they have a neat and clean appearance, which quite delighted me. On the level ground they form regular streets; but as we quit these and ascend the acclivity, they become smaller and meaner, and at length dwindle into detached cottages, surrounded by rocks, on which they are likewise constructed. I ascended the highest, where I could only perceive scanty patches of herbage interspersed, which resembled rather moss than grass. This whole tract, from the summits of these rocks to the banks of the river Gotha, must once have been a soil perfectly sterile, composed either of naked rocks or covered with sand; but human industry has converted it into a garden. Wherever the situation admits of it, we observe between the naked rocks kitchen-gardens, fruit and other trees, pastures, and potatoe-grounds.

While I had this charming view before and partly on one side of me, I perceived on my other side the city, which appears highly romantic behind three craggy rocks, a part of it being covered by the middle one. This, however, is only a very small part of the grand picture. I commanded a view of almost the whole island of Hisingen, which on this side has a great number of villages and houses; and my eye followed the windings of the Gotha, to its mouth: beyond I discovered many other small islands, between which the sea (that is, the Cattegat or Skager Rack) is discernible. In the Gotha, which is here very broad, a great number of ships were lying, both near me and at a distance. The whole view appeared to me to combine with all the romantic beauties of a Swiss prospect, the peculiar effect which navigation alone can produce. The suburbs, which may be considered as a distinct place, are inhabited by merchants, tradespeople, artisans, and seafaring men.

Trolhätta, 13th July.

We left Gothenburg yesterday morning early ; and travelled upwards of fifty miles, through a country infinitely more beautiful than any I had yet seen in this kingdom. It is likewise better cultivated than any part between Helsingburg and Gothenburg : I mean where the soil is susceptible of cultivation ; for a great portion of it consists of hard and naked granite, which no industry could ever render productive. This road runs, all along, near the river Gotha ; which we frequently see, and which forms charming views.—The ancient fortress of Bohus, with the small town of the same name lying below it, has a noble situation, and makes a good appearance. The villages were also more respectable than those we had before passed through ; and I now for the first time discovered woods of pines, none of which trees I had seen for a long time, though I had fully expected to meet with them under this latitude.

I have spent four hours in surveying the works of Trolhätta. You probably know that all the works which for upwards of a century have been going forward here, have been relinquished and declared unserviceable. I shall therefore only take notice of the new works, particularly, as the former are very circumstantially described in Coxe's Travels.

Near the village of Trolhätta, the navigation of the river Gotha is interrupted by several falls. A little lower down there is another, called Flottberg's fall. After repeated attempts to render the passage of these falls, and among the islands, practicable for shipping, it was resolved to abandon the design altogether, and to construct a canal ; by means of which vessels could leave the river at Trolhätta, and, after a course of about a mile and three quarters, return into it again. The whole of this canal, except two small portions, is cut through the solid rock ; which is partly composed of sand-stone, but principally consists of grey or red granite.

The height, from the uppermost fall till below Flottberg's, is 112 feet. From the beginning to nearly the end of the canal, the water is level with the part of the river above the falls ; and the ships descend the whole depth of 112 feet, at a place where eight sluices, each upwards of thirteen feet in height, have been constructed close together. The length of the sluices is 120, and their breadth twenty-two feet, and they admit vessels of 150 tons ; the greatest depth of the canal, where it has been cut through a rock of considerable height, is seventy-two feet, and its depth of water 10 feet. To have given it a greater depth, so as to admit larger vessels, would have been unnecessary, because there are parts of

the river between this place and Gothenburg which are not more than ten feet deep.

It might appear extraordinary to an Englishman, that the only obstacle which so long opposed the navigation of this river, was the want of a canal less than two miles in length ; and indeed in England this difficulty would soon have been overcome. But it should be considered, in the first place, that the Swedes are not so rich, highly civilized, enterprising, and mechanical a nation, as the English ; and in the second, that the ground here is such as is seldom found in the vicinity of a great river : the whole adjacent country is an immense solid mass of rock ; and for the most part of the hardest kind, being granite.

Eight hundred men are daily employed at this place ; with the exception of about sixty, they are all soldiers, and receive eight schillings (about sixpence) each for the day's work. It is not quite five years since the works were commenced, and in two years they expect to open the canal. This is entirely a private undertaking and was begun by a single individual. All the works previously carried on here were at the expence of the government. Mr. Chalmers, of Gothenburg, knowing that many people considered it only as a means of making a fortune, and that the management alone cost great sums, he went to Stockholm (as he himself informed me), settled all the necessary preliminaries with the government, fixed the tolls to be paid on the canal when completed, and a general scale according to which the proprietors of the land, or rather of the naked rocks, should be indemnified, together with many other points of a similar nature. Upon this he immediately opened a sale of shares, as is customary in England ; and in a short time received subscriptions for 765,000 rix-dollars, or about 115,000*l.* sterling. These shares are transferable. It is, however, supposed that the canal will not require an expenditure of more than 45,000*l.* which will again force a smile from an Englishman.

Thus this canal avoids the four falls of Trolhätta as they are denominated. Two Swedish miles below Trolhätta, the Gotha forms another fall ; but this has long been remedied by means of the Edit Sluice, which I yesterday saw. This sluice is far from handsome, and in my opinion was originally ill constructed. It is very much out of repair, and the water forced its way through all the seams in the wall. It belongs to the town of Gothenburg ; but will be transferred to the new company, by which it will soon be thoroughly repaired.

The result of what I have seen is, that this canal is by no means equal to those of the kind in England, particularly the Duke of Bridgewater's, the great canal near Halifax which

goes out of Lancashire into Yorkshire, and the cut of the Mull of Cantire in Scotland. On the other hand, the canal of Trolhätta has an air of grandeur that none of the English canals possesses; which it derives principally from its deep bed of granite, and the height of the gates of the sluices, some of which are said to be twenty-six feet.

Of the rocky islands situated in the river, near Trolhätta, two are inhabited, but two or three are quite inaccessible. One of these is overgrown with trees, which have never been touched by human hands. A dog which attempted to swim across the river at some distance above, being carried away by the rapidity of the current, was cast upon this island. He there lived several days; but, not having the courage to plunge again into the impetuous torrent, he perished with hunger.

Lidköping, 16th July.

We left Trolhätta in the afternoon of the 14th, and proceeded to Wenersburg, a distance of about ten miles. This road leads through a country which is not only beautiful, but I may say romantic, to the Ronnom-bridge, beneath which the Gotha forms a fine fall. The river is here so contracted by rocks that its breadth does not exceed fifty feet. The adjacent country is extremely picturesque, and I regretted that I had not time to make some drawings of it. We alighted, and contemplated the prospect below and above the bridge, from a small eminence from which we had the most charming view of the windings of the river. I have not yet informed you, that the falls of Trolhätta are beautifully picturesque, and perfectly resemble the scenery of Switzerland; and I may say the same of the country around this spot. To add to its charms, the Gotha is of a fine sea-green colour, which forms an agreeable contrast with the white foam of the water-falls.

At the Ronnom-bridge we quitted the high-road, to see the Gustavus sluice, which Mr. Coxe calls the Tessin sluice. In order to avoid the fall under the bridge, a canal was carried westward from Wenersburg, from the lake Wenner, which still forms the regular communication. Charles IX. blew up the rocks about this place, to procure a situation for the sluice which was afterwards constructed. Being only eighteen feet in breadth, and consequently not admitting ships of any burthen, the late king, Gustavus III., ordered another to be built of brick, which is very beautiful. It is composed of two parts; the height of which I cannot give, because I am unwilling to quote any uncertain authority.

On our arrival at Wenersburg, I walked about the town, and likewise took a view of the lake. This place is situated

between the above-mentioned canal and the river Gotha, and has a considerable trade. Next to Gothenburg, it is the handsomest town that I have yet seen in Sweden; being composed of good houses, almost all of which are of wood. The castle is of stone; and is an extensive building, of simple but elegant construction. The market-place is large, and the streets are broad.

While we were at Gothenburg, we had been advised in the most earnest manner not to travel through Sweden without seeing Kinne-kulle, one of the most delightful views in the world. The person who most praised it to us, has travelled much, and resided ten years in Asia. The engineers at Trolhätta likewise informed us that we should not repent this excursion; though, to perform it with convenience, makes a difference to us of at least three days, and a circuit of about 140 miles. A circumstance which completely decided us was, that our coachman fell sick, and we were obliged to wait for his recovery: in this interval we resolved to make the excursion with only one servant, and a Swedish coachman who understands nothing but his native language.

I had indeed already made considerable progress in the Swedish language, and could ask for almost every thing I wanted. Our journey to Kinne-kulle required a greater proficiency; but on this head I was perfectly easy, because I had been assured that at Lidköping I should find some one who understood either French or German. Immediately on my arrival I made enquiry for a person who could speak any other language besides Swedish, and mentioned those tongues which I understood; but to all my questions I received no answer but *Inte an Sveske*, "Nothing but Swedish." At this moment a youth of sixteen or seventeen years entered the house, and the landlady asked him whether he understood any foreign language. He belonged to the school of Lackö; containing, by his account, two hundred boys, and established in an ancient structure situated on an island in the lake Wenner. He was spending the holidays with his relations at this place; and I at length discovered that he understood Latin, which with great difficulty he spoke. As this however was better than no language at all, I gave him an invitation to accompany us, which he cheerfully accepted. He confirmed all the extraordinary things I had heard of Kinne-kulle, and reckoned the prospect among the seven wonders of Sweden.

This was not the only occasion on which, after a period of several years, I was obliged to converse in Latin. At a mean village where we stopped to change horses, I took a survey of the wretched huts, among which I observed one that was in some respects distinguished from the rest. While I was viewing it, a man came out of the house, who, though meanly dressed, had the appear-

ance of being either the parson or the schoolmaster of the parish. It was the former. I addressed him in Latin; but he shook his head, and said something in Swedish that I did not understand. Our conversation was very short. I discovered, however, that he was the minister of the place, and that he very politely invited us into his house to take some refreshment. *Cognoscitis Caffee* was all the Latin that I could get from him. I was touched with this feature of hospitality amidst the evident poverty of his situation. I thanked him, in Swedish; and left him, to look at some wind-mills situated between Wennergö and Lidköping, and which are more wretched, mean, and awkward, than any thing of the kind I ever beheld.

Our ride to Kinnekulle turned out exactly as I expected. The mountain is not nearly two thousand feet above the surface of the lake: and on the land side is so overgrown with fir-trees, as to intercept the prospect of the adjacent country; so that this boasted view consists only of part of the lake Wenner and its shores. This lake is from 100 to 120 miles in length, and from 60 to 70 in breadth. But whatever is grand and beautiful, possesses those qualities only so far as it is adapted to the organs of our senses. The most enchanting view, removed thirty or forty miles from me, vanishes into nothing; and the expanse of the lake appeared only like the open sea. It contains indeed a great number of islands; but they were at such a distance from us, as to make an insignificant figure. I perceived the peninsula, which projects many miles from the north shore of the lake between the towns of Amal and Carlstadt, exactly opposite to me; for Kinnekulle is a little to the left of the high road from Lidköping to Stockholm: but this likewise was at too great a distance. The most interesting object was the peninsula which projects a considerable distance into the lake between Wennergö and Lidköping, and is near the spectator. At the extremity of it is situated an island, in which is the royal palace of Lackö, now appropriated to the purposes of the school above-mentioned.

As I know that the mountains of Wermeland are very lofty, I expected that they would probably reach to the north shore of the lake: but either this is not the case; or, on account of the great distance, their height vanishes; for I perceived but indistinctly a shore that was not very lofty. The country around Kinnekulle is very fertile; and the tract which I that day beheld, was the best cultivated and the most populous of any I had yet seen in Sweden. The cottages of the country-people were likewise superior to those I had before met with; many had small orchards in which the cherries began to assume their colour, the grass was luxuriant, and corn in abundance. Near the mountain are situ-

ated many gentlemen's seats, some of which have a very pleasing appearance. Probably this fertility and high cultivation cause the Swedes to bestow such extravagant encomiums on the beauties of the prospect.

Lidköping is situated on the navigable river Lida, which divides it into the old and new town.—In all the Swedish inns, the first thing that is brought us is an enormous bottle of brandy, with some hard rye bread or rather cake. The liquor is in general doubly distilled, and the strongest of the kind that I ever drank.

The soup is always the last dish that is placed on the table. Tea is not uncommon in these houses, and it is better than I have met with in any other part of the Continent.—To the honour of the few Swedish inns that I have yet visited, I must state that the barbarous custom of smothering us under a thick feather-bed seems to be unknown in them. The people here are also strangers to another custom very common in Germany, that of giving to travellers sheets which have before been used. The Swedish inns are nevertheless very much decried; and probably, in our long course through this country, we shall find not without justice. In all that I have yet seen, the apartments are strewn with the young shoots of fir, pine, or larch trees. Porcelain is in general use, which is more than we find in France; silver utensils are common, and the plates and dishes are Staffordshire ware. Scarcely has a man ever existed who has created such an extensive branch of trade for his country as Wedgwood: he improved this ware, and brought it into general use at the tables both of the rich and poor, from one end of Europe to the other. It is one of the greatest things ever accomplished by one man.

WENNERSBURG, 17th July.

We did not leave Lidköping till seven o'clock this morning, and yet we arrived at this place before three, though the distance is about forty miles. In any other country we should have proceeded immediately: but not so in Sweden. Besides being always obliged to bespeak horses if we wish not to be detained, the inns are likewise a principal consideration; and of these there are very few. At most stations there is none at all; the greatest part of them consisting of nothing more than the cottage of the *hallkart*, whose business it is, as I have already mentioned, to provide the horses: and this cottage is sometimes composed of a single small room, in which the man and his whole family live and sleep. Mr. Coxe, indeed, informs us that he frequently slept in these cottages, and mostly found an apartment for the reception of guests, or at least a bed: but in the majority it would be in vain to look for either the one or the other.

I have just returned from a walk on the shore of the lake Wenner, and the cliffs on its banks. I was astonished to observe so few ships, and so many extensive provinces lie contiguous to this lake; as all vessels must pass by Wenersburg because there is no other way for goods but down the Gotha, through Gothenburg, to the sea. But the passage of vessels in these parts appears to be dependent on particular periods, in which certain commodities are collected in this or the other place from whole districts. Thus for instance, at the present time, agents are employed in buying up all the iron in Wermeland that is to be sent to England; and when it is all collected together, it is shipped off in great quantities at once.

LETTER VII.

TOUR IN NORWAY.

UDDEWALLA.—STRÖMSTADT.—THE SWINSUND.—FREDERICSHALL.—MOS.—SCHUTSJÖRYD.—CHRISTIANIA.—CHARMING, FERTILE, AND CULTIVATED COUNTRY ROUND THAT CITY.—OUS.—KONGSWINGER.—THE ROADS OF NORWAY.—MAGNOR.

CHRISTIANIA, *in Norway*, July 24th, 1798.

WE left Wenersburg on the 18th; and that day travelled about eighty miles, to Strömstadt. Near Wenersburg the road crosses a canal, cut from the lake on which is situated the Gustavus-sluice, and which a little lower down joins the Gotha: by means of this, vessels avoid the fall formed by that river at the bridge of Ronnom.

After proceeding fourteen miles from this place, we came to Uddewalla; a considerable town, with a harbour communicating with several bays formed by the different islands lying before Uddewalla. The whole tract is in the highest degree picturesque and romantic. The hills and islands are partly naked rocks, and partly overgrown with trees; and the sea winds in such a singular manner between the rocks and round the islands, that it has the appearance of several small lakes. From this place to the Norwegian frontiers I found the country more agreeable
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than any part of Sweden I had yet traversed. From Uddewalla to Strömstadt we were continually near the sea, so that we frequently had a view of small arms, taking their picturesque course through the country; and which we frequently found in places where, from the map, we had no expectation of meeting with them. The road led mostly up and down hill, over and between romantic rocks of singular shapes. This tract, notwithstanding its wildness, is more populous and cultivated than many others where the ground is more level, and the soil more fertile.

Strömstadt, though situated on the sea, and having a harbour, is a small insignificant town. Inclosed among rocks almost entirely bare, its situation is the more remarkable. The traveller imagines that he is entering a completely desert country, in which he expects to find not a single human habitation; and, to his astonishment, in the midst of it he meets with a town.

From Strömstadt we returned a considerable part of the route we had gone the preceding evening. On this account a more direct road has been made; so that the traveller has no occasion to go to that town, unless he intends to sleep there. The country now becomes more mountainous; and the road in many places so steep, that, though we all alighted, the six horses could with difficulty draw the carriage. In these parts a vast quantity of fir-trees grow, of which I had the day before observed several woods.

On our reaching the summit of a very lofty mountain, I beheld below us the Swinsund, a lake which has the appearance of a river, winding a great distance into the country, and forming at this place the boundary between Sweden and Norway. This scene has an air of grandeur, and resembles no other prospect in Europe that I have seen. It reminded me of views in remote regions, given in the voyages of Cook and others.

With infinite labour and difficulty our carriage was brought down the steep declivity, when it was ferried over in a boat of no great size. The horses were transported in another; and we were conveyed in a very small boat, by one of the most charming girls I have seen for a long time. During the passage I again made the observation which has so often before been made by others; that the fair sex understand every compliment paid to them, whatever language it may be in. I told her, in my broken Swedish, how handsome I thought her; on which she blushed, and smiled.

On the Norwegian side of the Swinsund, rises a mountain equally steep with that on the Swedish side which we had descended. We enjoyed delightful views, proceeding over mountains of marble through a very wild country; and arrived at Helle,

where our Swedish horses were changed for Norwegian. I enquired for the house of the *Hall-karl* (for here as in Sweden, there are no post-houses); where we were received by a female, who appeared to be a peasant of the lower class. She, however, conducted us into an apartment in which we found all that a traveller can reasonably desire; and where I should have had no objection to pass the night, had not Fredericshall been the place of our destination. In a word, we found a very decent inn in a small village where I expected only to meet with a wretched hut.

Fredericshall is situated on the Swinsund, at the place where the river Tistedal falls into it. To arrive at the town we descend a lofty mountain, from which the place and adjacent country form a fine view. This, however, is much inferior to what I afterwards saw. Fredericshall is a straggling place, situated at the foot of the mountain on whose summit stands the celebrated fortress which is properly called Fredericstein. The town itself is quite open, neat, and clean; and contains a great number of good houses.

It may easily be supposed that we wished to see the spot where Charles XII. fell. We were informed that for this purpose the special permission of the governor is required; and that, strictly, all foreigners are prohibited from seeing this fortress. The spot, nevertheless, is not situated in the fortress itself; but between it and another fort, which commands an eminence. We applied to lieutenant-colonel Von Hof; who received us with the utmost politeness, though we had no letters of recommendation. A serjeant conducted us to the summit; where close to the gate of the fortress, one of the most magnificent prospects I have any where beheld opened to the view. The capacious harbour, with its numerous indentations and bays, formed by several islands, combines all the romantic cast of a Swiss view, with the peculiar character of a marine prospect,—a port, ships, &c. We then walked about the port a considerable time, and I had some difficulty to part from a scene which combines such variety with such grandeur and loveliness. To judge from the number of ships which I saw here, the trade of the town would be supposed more extensive than it really is. A large sugar-bake house on the shore makes a distinguished figure. The place where the Swedish warrior was shot, affords a charming view; as does also a small eminence situated near it. From this spot we discover, on the side opposite to the harbour, a fine fertile valley, watered by the river Tistedal, whose banks are extremely lively; and here we likewise perceive a part of the town, which winds so far round the foot of the mountain.

On this memorable spot formerly stood pompous trophies, with inscriptions; but they have been demolished. Nothing is

now to be seen there but a wooden cross painted white, on which we read—*The Siege; December 11th, 1718.* That the Swedish monarch was killed by a musket-shot from the rampart, I have not the smallest doubt; for, in my opinion, the nearest part of it is scarcely six hundred feet distant in a direct line.

On the 20th we went upwards of ten Norwegian, or about seventy English miles; by way of Mos, to Schutsjoryd. Mos is a small place which I had never heard mentioned; and of which I knew nothing more, than that a town of that name is laid down on the map between Fredericshall and Christiania. On my arrival there I observed a number of very neat, and at the same time respectable houses; and such a general appearance of opulence, that I was surprised. At the end of the town we came to a part so picturesque and romantic, that I alighted; and could not refrain from admiring the extraordinary mixture of houses, naked rocks, sawing-mills, an iron-foundry, and a small stream which precipitates itself in rude cascades down the rocks, and turns a great number of mills. The scene was enlivened by both art and Nature: and below, at a considerable distance, I perceived the masts of ships; for Mos is situated on a bay, called Christianiafiord, which extends to the town from which it derives its appellation. These bays are very numerous, and impart an inexpressible charm to the whole country.

Schutsjoryd is a single detached house. Between Fredericshall and that place, the road is the most mountainous I ever travelled. The whole tract from Swinsund to Christiania is incomparably beautiful, romantic, and picturesque; and confirms what I have so often heard asserted, that Norway is the Switzerland of the north. The woods are so numerous, that we were seldom out of them for any length of time, and constantly had several in view. They are almost entirely composed of fir-trees, which constitute the wealth of this country. The timber is cut in sawing-mills, and exported principally to England.

Twenty-four miles brought us to Christiania: this northern paradise, this heavenly region, which I could never have expected to find under the 60th degree of latitude; and no description of which I should have believed, if it were expressed with such energy, and painted in such glowing colours, as I wish myself able to employ.

About four miles before we reach Christiania, we descended a lofty mountain, from which we enjoyed one of the most delightful views that I am acquainted with in Europe. It is grand, expansive, and sublime; but not rude, as might be perhaps expected. In the fore-ground are naked rocks; and in the distance lofty mountains covered with wood. At our feet lay extended a rich,

fertile, well-cultivated country; together with a city of considerable magnitude, which appears to be larger than it actually is, and the most picturesque harbour than can be imagined. I forgot the climate in which I was, and imagined myself transported to the most favoured region in Europe. I scarcely know any where a view which comprises such a variety of objects and scenery. The rocks that were near me, and partly inclosed the bay, brought to my recollection the savage wildness of the Alps; while mountains of a different description seemed to prove that this country rather belonged to the milder districts of the canton of Bern. The upper part of the Christianiafiord would have reminded me of the most beautiful of the lakes of Switzerland, if the ships had not convinced me that I was near the sea-coast. At the same time, this extensive district is so interspersed with detached houses, all of which have a neat, pleasing, and comfortable appearance, that we imagine ourselves transported into fairy-land. The verdure here is of the most charming tint; the plants and trees of the most luxuriant growth, and in every quarter smile opulence and ease. I have since ascended this mountain, and have viewed the country adjacent to the town on every side; and always with increased delight. In short, I cannot express how beautiful every object around Christiania appears; and I never was more in want of words, though my mind overflows with ideas.

Christiania is the capital of Norway, but has not more than ten thousand inhabitants. It covers a considerable extent of ground; the streets being spacious, and the houses not lofty. It is situated at the extremity of a bay; which runs almost sixty miles up the country; and contains a great number of islands small and great, all of which are full of mountains and rocks, and rise from the water in the most beautiful and romantic forms. The prospect from the ramparts of the fortress (which, though not in a lofty situation, commands the circumjacent country) is particularly beautiful.

The view from the country-house of Mr. Chamberlain Anker, about four miles from this city, is truly magnificent; and not less beautiful, in its kind, is that from the splendid mansion of his brother, about sixteen miles distant. These gentlemen live, in this remote corner of the world, in the style of English lords, and in all the splendour of the most polished metropolis. The first time we waited upon the chamberlain, we were conducted through a long suite of superb rooms, partly decorated with tapestry, and partly with paintings and engravings. He has likewise a copious and a good library, English philosophical instruments, and a cabinet of natural history. It was not without an uncommon sensation that I saw at his house, here in Norway,

a large Quercino, a Guido, a very beautiful Conca, and several pictures by other great masters. Mr. Anker has travelled over the greatest part of Europe; and, besides his native language, he speaks English, German, French, and Italian, very fluently. His property, which is estimated at considerably more than a million of Danish dollars, consists of lands, a hundred and two sawing-mills, and thirty-eight vessels. In these last he exports his deals and timber to every part of Europe, and the commodities which are brought back are disposed of by his agents. His brother is said to possess a clear revenue of thirty-five thousand dollars, besides being furnished by his estates with all that his large establishment consumes. His stable contains above thirty horses, and his house is large and magnificently furnished.

These two brothers are by no means the only opulent persons in this province. A Mr. Rosenkrantz, who is said to be worth a million of dollars, and many very rich merchants, likewise reside in this place. The Norwegians, however, do not acquire their riches by places under government; for even the custom-house officers are principally from Denmark.

Last Sunday the chamberlain Anker had an assembly; which he gives every week on that day, together with a ball. About eighty or ninety persons might be present; of whom there were very few that did not understand at least one other language besides that of their native country. Many could speak two, and others three. German is not common; French is more general; but English is most frequently spoken. Yet the government has done nothing towards the improvement of this country; but, on the contrary, endeavours to prevent it. Mr. Anker has made every possible exertion to procure his country a university, but in vain. Christiania has, however, a gymnasium and a bank.

In this whole kingdom there is not a single bookseller's shop; all literary works are ordered from Copenhagen and Hamburgh. It contains four printing-houses; namely, in the principal towns, Christiania, Bergen, Drontheim, and Christiansand. Between these places there is very little communication; and their interests, like their occupations, are perfectly distinct. A post-road has been constructed between Christiania and Drontheim; but to the two other towns we cannot travel by land; for there is no high road on the whole western and part of the southern coast, nor perhaps is it possible to make any. This coast is so full of gulfs, bays, creeks, and inlets, all of which penetrate far into the country, and wind in many different directions, that it would be very difficult to form a road. In many parts a journey by land is entirely impracticable.—The post is on the same footing in Norway as in Sweden.

I took the greatest pains, but in vain, to ascertain the height

of the Norwegian mountains. The only person who could give me any information on this subject was Mr. Anker; but I am certain that he is greatly incorrect. He told me that the highest mountains were two thousand two hundred feet above the sea. I cannot help thinking, however, that some of those which I have myself seen, must be considerably more. From all that I can collect, the Norwegian mountains are not nearly so lofty as they have been described. Some indeed are constantly covered with snow; but this is rather a consequence of their northern latitude, than of their height. The Douvre Fiel, and some others of the same range, are said to be the loftiest; and, next to them, those near Røaas.—The climate is uncommonly mild for this high latitude.—All kinds of vegetables thrive well, and even peaches come to maturity in the open air. The cherries were very good, and far superior to those which I ate at Gothenburg.

Fresh butter cannot be procured here, any more than in Sweden. There is none to be had for many miles round Christiania. The country-people consume their milk themselves; and the butter which they make, they put by for their own use in winter. The fact is, the Norwegian farmers have no great stock of cattle, because they do not cultivate land sufficient to raise hay enough to support them during the winter, a period of seven or eight months in the year. They have abundance of pasturage in summer; but if they have a good stock of cattle, they are obliged to kill them in winter, or to take them to market; and the next summer, they have not money sufficient to make fresh purchases. Our landlord told me that he received his butter from a distance of above a hundred and forty miles; and that only at stated periods, so that the butter is consequently stale before it is sent off. The greatest part of the country round Christiania belongs to the citizens of that capital, who themselves consume a considerable portion of their productions. Farther in the country, the peasant chooses rather to employ himself in felling trees, which he sells at the sawing-mills, than to be at the trouble of cultivating the ground, and thus to procure a subsistence.—On this occasion, I must observe, that in Norway I have found very fine white bread; an article of luxury which I never yet met with in Sweden.

The flesh of the rein-deer is generally eaten here in winter. It is brought from Røraas, where persons who possess a great number of those animals reside. On the contrary, the elk is a perfect stranger. Though peculiar to the northern part of Norway, they have however become so rare, that a strict prohibition has been issued against killing them, with a view to preserve the breed, because it is a large and fine animal. Its flesh is much preferred to that of the rein-deer.

The Norwegian horses are excellent, and uncommonly swift.

I was particularly struck with the great size of those belonging to the Messrs. Ankers: they perfectly resemble the large breed of Holstein or Flanders. The common kind are not so large; they however, far exceed, both in size and quality, those in that part of Sweden through which I have yet travelled.

MAGNOR, *in* NORWAY, *on the frontier of* WERMELAND, July 26, 1798.

Three days ago I had no idea that I should so soon reach again the frontiers of Norway. We had suffered ourselves to be persuaded to adopt a more extensive plan, and were actually half-resolved to see this country as far as Drontheim: we therefore entered it towards the south; and were on the road to Kongsburg, when an unpleasant accident brought us back to Christiania.—Another circumstance likewise contributed to induce us to leave Norway. I have not yet informed you that we had determined to visit Lapland, by the way of Tornea: and to proceed round the gulf of Bothnia, through Finlaud, to Petersburg. This idea originated with my companion, who dislikes the sea as much as myself, on being informed at Pymont by the Swedish admiral W*** that the whole of this immense distance is regularly supplied with post-horses. The novelty of the thing likewise had attractions for me. From that time I procured information relative to this subject wherever I had an opportunity. These accounts varied much, but they all agreed in representing the design as practicable. Yet I remained undecided till we came to Gothenburg; where Mr. Hall happened to say, that in a few weeks he expected letters from Petersburg, to which city his son was gone by the way of Tornea. On farther inquiry I found that this journey was nothing unusual; and that it has been performed by a great number both of Swedes and Russians. With respect to the distance, if we reckon from Gothenburg it is about two thousand three hundred miles; but I am told that it may be travelled in less than a month. We shall not, indeed, enjoy a sight of the sun at midnight; and it is probable, I hear, that we may have some frost and snow in the latitude of Tornea: it is, notwithstanding, our intention to go a day's journey farther to the north, that we may at least be able to say we have seen something of that district.

We left Christiania early yesterday morning: and went about seventy miles, to Ous; a single detached house, at the neatness, elegance, and cleanliness of which, we were not a little surprized. This inn has, besides, such a charming situation on the large river Glomme, that in the evening it was with reluctance I quitted the window; where I beheld a magnificent Swiss landscape—the beautiful river, a lofty mountain to the right and another to the left, thick forests, and the rising moon that appears to vie with

the brilliancy of the sky, which in this latitude continues during the whole night.

The country through which we this day travelled, was more beautiful, and likewise more fertile and better cultivated, than that part which lies between Christiania and the Swedish frontiers. In a word, the whole tract of upwards of two hundred miles, over which I have travelled, justly entitles Norway to the appellation of the *Switzerland of the North*.

I could not forbear remarking the great number of rivers in this district. In the seventy miles which we travelled yesterday, we crossed five rivers (the smallest of which is equal to the Mulda or Necker) at their mouths: they are, indeed, not very deep, and on account of their numerous falls they are not navigable. The Glomme, in general, appears to be as broad as the Elbe at Dresden, but in some places it is far broader. In the part where we first crossed it, and where the rocks on each side somewhat contract the channel, its breadth is computed to be four hundred paces.—Only two of these rivers are provided with wooden bridges: over all the others we were obliged to pass in boats, or rather rafts; being nothing more than a number of timbers fastened together, between which the water appeared as soon as the coach was placed upon the machine. The first of these rafts which I saw, filled me with such apprehension, that I looked round for a boat. I found one, but there was no person to row, as all were employed with the wherry. I therefore determined to row myself, and my companion offered to assist me. I was just pushing off from the shore, when our coachman leaving the horses and carriage, jumped into our boat. This was a fortunate circumstance; for I soon discovered that we were inadequate to the enterprize: and when we reached the middle of the river, the current was so impetuous, that we were hurried rapidly along; and it required my utmost exertions, together with all the strength and experience of our coachman, to arrive at the opposite shore, though considerably below the place we intended. Had it not been for his assistance, we should have been carried away by the rapidity of the torrent, till some fall would have precipitated us among the rocks, and terminated our exertions together with our lives.

Leaving Ous, we proceeded in the forenoon of the 26th of July to Kongswinger. During the whole way we were in the vicinity of the Glomme; which, notwithstanding its breadth and rapidity, winds in an extraordinary manner. We did not cross it, however, till we arrived at Kongswinger, after making a circuit of upwards of seven miles. In England one crosses the Thames perhaps four or five times in one day; but in this country, where there are no bridges, or where the ferries are in bad condition

we endeavour to avoid passing over the rivers, and the roads are constructed accordingly.

Kongswinger is a small frontier fortress, on the summit of a hill. The place of the same name situated below it, is insignificant and quite defenceless. In any other country the fortress would not have claimed any notice; but we were in Norway, and thus it became an object of the traveller's attention. The view from it is well worth seeing.

This place was interesting to us on another account. I shall never forget the good old general Von Beillardt. We waited upon him, to obtain permission to see the fortress. I delivered him a general recommendation which Mr. Anker had given us, and which was to serve for all Norway. He received us with the politeness peculiar to an old soldier; and conducted us over the whole fortress, and afterwards to his own habitation. Here, though we informed him that we had ordered dinner at the inn, he insisted on our partaking of a cold collation. This did not satisfy his hospitality; but as he knew the Swedish inns at which we should have to stop, afforded very indifferent accommodation, he ordered a quantity of different kinds of provision to be packed up, and sent his servant after us with it. The general spoke German and French; and forty or fifty years ago had been in Saxony, which country he still recollects with great pleasure.

If we poor travellers knew how often the inhabitants of the different places laugh at our sage observations, it would certainly humble us. Not far from Kongswinger is a hill, or rather a mountain, higher than that on which the fortress is situated. Concerning this eminence, Mr. Coxe remarks, that from it an enemy might command the fortress. When we came to that part of the fort from which this mountain is seen, the general pointed it out to us; and at the same time repeated with a laugh the observation of Mr. Coxe, which, however, he has not himself read. "In winter," said he, "the climate is such as to render a siege impracticable; in summer, a *coup de main* can never be attempted, because during four months we have no night; but if an enemy should resolve to erect a battery on that mountain, it is so difficult of access, that it would be impossible to transport heavy cannon to such a situation; and a battery of small cannon would very soon be destroyed by the governor with his twenty-four pounders."

The inn at Kongswinger would do honour to any city, even in the most polished countries of Europe; and except the large towns, I did not find its equal in all Italy. In the afternoon we crossed the impetuous Glomme in a boat, while another was obliged to make two turns with the carriage and six horses. This business took so much time, that we had walked above three miles before they overtook us. The same evening we

reached Magnor, a small village close to the Swedish frontiers.

The roads of Norway are not so good as the Swedish; and those between Christiania and Wermeland are worse than those on the other side from Christiania. We, however, proceeded a great distance every day; and I rather wondered, that in this unfrequented corner of the world the roads should be so good, than that they were not better.

LETTER VIII.

Travels through the Provinces of Wermeland, Norige, and Södermannland, to Stockholm.

FORT EDA—CHARACTER OF THE SWEDISH LAKES—PRÄSTBOL—CARLSTADT—CHRISTINEHAM—NATIONAL DRESS OF THE PEASANTRY, AND BEAUTY OF THE FEMALE SEX, IN WERMELAND—GEREBRO—ARBOGA—KINGSÖR—ESKILSTUNA—MANUFACTURES OF IRON AND STEEL—MARIEFRED.

Stockholm, August 2nd, 1798.

I ARRIVED here yesterday; but before I say any thing concerning this city, I must first describe my journey through the charming provinces of Wermeland, Norige, and Södermannland; and I shall be the more particular, as I do not recollect to have met with much relating to them in any Travels. Mr. Coxe, indeed, came from Norway, by the same road as we; but his attention is so entirely occupied with mines, canals, and statistical details, that he takes very little notice of the beauties which nature presents.

On leaving Magnor, in Norway, we proceeded about six miles, when we arrived at the Swedish frontier. It may be conceived how much this pass is frequented, from the circumstance that the key of the gate which forms the barrier was lost, and they were obliged to break it open with an axe. When we came to the first Swedish station, and the book was brought me in which travellers are obliged to write their names, I found that though it was the 27th day of the month, we were but the third party which passed this way since its commencement. The road was partly overgrown with short grass; but was perfectly even, and in good condi-

tion. Near the custom-house, situated close to the small but romantic river Wrång is a bridge; which, together with the river and the circumjacent rocks, forms a very pleasing view.

From Morast we came to the village of Eda. On an eminence in the vicinity is situated a fort, which, though laid down in the map by the name of Eda fort, is quite gone to decay. From this eminence we saw a charming lake, which in the map of Wermeland is denominated Bysee. We were not far from it throughout its whole length; and saw it, from different hills, in various points of view, which were all equally picturesque. The Swedish lakes in general, and even the smallest of them, have a peculiar kind of beauty, which I have found in no others. This they derive from the numerous indentations of their shores; and the many peninsulas or promontories which project far into the water, and produce an incessant variety in their appearance. These promontories frequently look like islands; and as they are either mountainous, rocky, or covered with trees, they are equally romantic and picturesque. What abundance of employment would here have been for a landscape-painter!—but I never yet heard of views in Wermeland.

We had scarcely passed this lake, when we arrived at another of still greater beauty and extent, which in the broadest part is called Glafs Fjolen. We enjoyed for many hours the varied prospects which it presents. During this whole time, the road was incessantly up and down hill, and in this respect was extremely fatiguing. The mountains are all abundantly covered with fir-woods, among which the naked rocks at intervals tower aloft. There are likewise occasionally gentle declivities, with small villages in charming situations. This would be the proper district for country-seats, but I did not observe a single one. Generally speaking, there are not many in Sweden; and the most mountainous part of Wermeland is probably too rude and savage to induce any one to fix his pleasure residence there; as other things are required for this purpose besides fine prospects. Before I reached the country bordering on the lake Wermelen, I saw very little of any kind of grain; and the whole of this fine tract is almost destitute of inhabitants. In the first fifty miles of this day's journey, I think I did not discover a single fruit-tree.

With respect to the lakes, I must observe that some of them run almost throughout the whole extent of the province of Wermeland, from north to south; and that their breadth is by no means proportionate to their length. Glafs Fjolen, for example, the second to which we came, is upwards of forty miles in length, but is in no part four in breadth; and a similar disproportion prevails in all the rest. The curvatures and indentations of the land are such, that we never see much beyond a distance of six miles at once:

In consequence of this, all the objects appear in such a manner that the eye can embrace and dwell upon them; whereas, on the contrary, I could never look at the lake of Wenner with pleasure five minutes together. An immense expanse of water, at the end of which the shore either disappears entirely, or appears like a fine cloud, has nothing intrinsically beautiful; whereas a lake of no great breadth varies every hour, and is constantly presenting new objects.

The third lake, at which we arrived the same day, was that of Wernielen, the northern part of which resembles the two points of a pair of scissars. I had then no particular map of that province, and could not explain the extraordinary appearances presented by that magnificent lake. We had it at first before us; then above an hour to the right; afterwards, for about six miles, to the left; and at last we were obliged to cross it, in a part where it is not above a mile in breadth. We were transported, together with our carriage, on a low raft, on which I could not always stand free from the water.

We saw the same day two smaller lakes; and six miles beyond Prästbol we entered a more level, cultivated, and populous country. Near Prästbol I found extensive fields of rye, and the harvest had commenced.

Between Magnor and Carlstadt there is not a single good inn. I had been informed that only two, including that at Prästbol, were at all tolerable. To the latter I sent forward an express, to order refreshments to be prepared for us; but what was our astonishment, when we found nothing but cold bacon, brandy, and dried beef-bones, from which we with great difficulty cut the flesh or rather sinews, that it was afterwards impossible to eat. I shall never forget the sensations, the mixture of ill-humour and compassion, with which this house inspired me. On receiving my written order by the express, the good folks never conceived that we could wish for any thing more than cold bacon and beef-bones dried in the air. For what was wanting in our repast, they had endeavoured to make amends in another manner. Both the apartments were strewed with fresh pine-branches, which were likewise piled in all the corners up to the ceiling. The rooms, being shut, were filled with the exhalation of the newly-cut wood, which upon our first entering it almost stopped our breath. We hastened to the windows; but found that this house was one of those in which the windows are nailed up, not only to secure them against storms and other accidents, but likewise to save wood in winter. In short, in both rooms not a single window could be opened. I was therefore obliged, though much against my inclination, to order at least the bed-chamber to be cleaned out. At length I with difficulty pre-

vailed on them to remove the pine-wood that was piled up in the corners; and to sweep the floor, covered with the shoots of the same. In the whole village there was neither tea nor coffee; but we could procure some sugar. We had tea ourselves, and cups and saucers were borrowed at another house. The next morning however, when every thing else was ready for the breakfast, it was found that the sugar which we expected to obtain from some of the neighbouring houses was consumed. In the whole village there were only four eggs, and these we had sent for the preceding night.

On the 28th of July we arrived again at some small lakes, and passed through an agreeable but more level country. Most of the lakes of Wermeland terminate in rivers which fall into the lake Wenner; and some of these lakes may be considered merely as rivers which, in certain parts, are bounded by higher land than that through which they before flowed; and thus all the low land being inundated to its full extent, forms the lake. The rivers with which this is more particularly the case, are the By, the Noors, and the Clara.

This last divides, near Carlstadt, into two branches; inclosing an extensive island, of which the town occupies a small space. Carlstadt is a pretty place; though, like all the others, built of wood. I saw a great number of fine spacious buildings, with an appearance of cheerfulness and cleanliness which produces an agreeable effect. It is the see of a bishop; who is at the same time rector of Christineham, but constantly resides at Carlstadt. Thus we find the system of pluralities prevailing in other countries besides England.

We travelled the same afternoon to Christineham, a neat town at the extremity of the lake Wenner. Through the whole way we had repeatedly charming views of the numerous inlets of the lake Wenner; which winds in a remarkable manner into the country, and appears like a number of small lakes, adding in a high degree to the beauty of the scenery.

Christineham is a small town, containing scarcely any but good houses, the extreme neatness and cleanly appearance of which demonstrate that the inhabitants in general are in easy circumstances. Most of them are concerned in commission-business; for all the commodities going from this side of the country to the lake Wenner must pass through this place.

On the 29th of July we went from Christineham to Oerebro, the capital of Norige. The provinces of Norige, Westmannland, Södermannland, and Upland, are the richest, most fertile, and best-cultivated of any in Sweden. About Carlstadt I began, in fact, to perceive a great difference between that part of Wermeland and the former; every thing was much superior to what I

had found on the other side of Sweden which I had traversed, between Helsingburg and Norway. Even in the wildest parts of Wermeland I met with better houses, and the country-people were more decently clothed.

In Wermeland the peasantry have a national dress which has a very pleasing appearance. The coat, which is long, and has several folds behind, is of a dark brown, approaching to black. The cuffs, and likewise the collar, are of a violet or purple colour. The men seem to me to be more active and lively than on the other side of Sweden; they likewise have a better figure, and are handsomer upon the whole. I was particularly struck with the beauty of the females. They were not only well-grown and had a good complexion, but likewise had much more delicate features than is observed in the country-people or the labouring classes in other countries. What heightens their beauty in an extraordinary degree, and gives their whole figure a cleanly appearance, is the national head-dress;—a white handkerchief, which they throw over their head in such a manner as to protect themselves from the sun, covering part of the face, and falling in large folds behind. The females of the lower classes at Bologna cover their heads in the same manner; but with a larger handkerchief, and less elegance, than the Swedish women. It should be observed, that I am speaking only of the country-people, and of the lower class in the towns; for the higher orders everywhere dress in the same manner as persons of their own rank in the other countries of Europe.

Though I thought the females of Wermeland particularly beautiful, I cannot say they were exclusively so: for in all the provinces between Wermeland and Stockholm, I met with a great number of charming faces; so that I consider this middle part of Sweden as the land of beauty. Between Helsingborg, Norway, and the southern shores of the lake of Wenner, the women were the reverse; from which I had been surprized that travellers could praise the beauty of the sex in Sweden.

This middle district may be regarded as the favoured land. Here twice as many inhabitants live upon one square mile, as between Helsingburg and Gothenburg. It produces grain in abundance, even wheat not excepted; and likewise some fruits. The inhabitants are better clothed, and better lodged, in every respect more comfortable, than those on the other side of the kingdom. They were every where busy with the rye-harvest, which was partly over.

It might naturally be expected that the inns on this road should likewise be better; but this is by no means the case. The apartments are good enough, but the fare is always scanty; and we must either dispense entirely with wine, or the landlord has to

send out for it (if indeed there is any dealer in that article in the place). I did not, indeed, dispatch a messenger from Carlstadt to Christineham; because I imagined that on this road, particularly in the towns, it would be unnecessary to bespeak a supper. We were, however, so scantily provided, that the following day I sent an express to Kongsör, where we intended to stop for the night. Yet this precaution was of no avail. We found three apartments ready, it is true; but scarcely any thing to eat, and no wine. What most distresses us is, the want of bread; as we cannot accustom ourselves to the hard cakes, and even the miserable rye-bread cannot always be procured.

Oerebro is a very large town; that is, in the manner of Swedish towns, all of which occupy a great extent of ground; most of the houses having a court, or even a garden, by the side of them. This place is, next to Gothenburg, the largest and liveliest I have yet seen in Sweden, and has a considerable trade. From Oerebro to Stockholm the navigation is uninterrupted; for vessels may go from this place, across the lake Heelmar, into the canal of Arboga (called likewise Carls-graf, or Charles's Canal), and thence to Kongsör and Stockholm, or into the sea. Thus as the lake Wenner communicates with the sea near Gothenborg by means of the canal of Trolhätta, nothing more would be necessary in order to sail from the Baltic into the North Sea, straight across Sweden, than to establish a communication between Oerebro and Christineham. This, however, is an undertaking which Sweden will not be able to accomplish in a century. In a direct line, the distance is nearly a hundred and forty miles. A canal of this kind is, besides, rendered impracticable in this country, as the ground is principally composed of granite; and even in the most cultivated tracts, a multitude of these naked masses of rock appear projecting above the earth.

Before I arrived at Oerebro, I made inquiry concerning the manufactures of fire-arms, cloth, and tapestry, mentioned by Mr. Coxe as existing at that place. No person knew any thing of them. I then asked a very intelligent merchant at Christineham, who informed me there was no such thing at Oerebro. I inquired in the town itself; and received for answer, that not one of those manufactures is carried on in the place: yet Mr. Coxe was himself on the spot! This, however, proves nothing more than that he probably copied our countryman Büsching, who likewise makes mention of manufactures of fire-arms and tapestry. Büsching, we know, never travelled, but derived his information from other works; and in this manner one writer continues to copy from another, and to perpetuate error.

The ancient royal palace, in which the governor of the province resides, contains nothing worthy of notice; but its exterior

possess a certain dignity, and an appearance of antique grandeur. It stands on a small island; and is surrounded with ditches, in which I saw an immense multitude of carp, as at Chantilly and Fontainebleau.

Between Christineham and Oerebro, or rather between Alorp and Starbjorboda, is an iron mine belonging to baron Von Fock. To me this mine appeared unworthy of attention; but this was not the case with a charming country-house situated close to it, on a small lake whose banks are abundantly covered with wood, and command delicious views. Since my arrival in Sweden I had seen nothing of the kind, so that this object gave me particular pleasure. The house and grounds are new; the latter in the English style, but on account of the nature of the country differing extremely from what we are accustomed to see.—We soon afterwards came to a furnace which, at that time, was quite unemployed, and appears to be almost relinquished; for of the numerous huts around it, nine-tenths were empty. The multitude of these huts, however, prove, that it must have been a considerable work. The people of the country call it Mylhytta.

Between Oerebro and Arboga we met with nothing remarkable; except an immense number of carts and horses waiting for the king, his attendants, and all their baggage. His majesty had spent part of the summer at the baths of Medewi, and was returning to Stockholm. We observed the same at all the succeeding stations, without mentioning the carts which followed and passed us at full gallop. I never saw such a collection of wretched boxes, trunks, chests, &c. as passed us on that day.

Arboga seemed to be a most insignificant town; though the Ulvison is navigable to that place, and, by means of the canal of Arboga, communicates with the lake Hielmar, as well as that of Mälar,—that is, with Stockholm and the sea. At some distance from the town we crossed the canal over a draw-bridge, the inscription on which says that “this canal was commenced by Charles XI., and completed by Charles XII. in the year 1699.”

Here an accident occurred, which, if I had not witnessed it, I should scarcely have been able to believe. The horses with which we came from the last station were extremely weak; and I had already observed that they could scarcely draw us up the smallest hill, for this stage is almost entirely level. It was still worse in descending, because then two horses were obliged to hold back the whole weight of the carriage. A draw-bridge of course, is always the highest in the middle. Notwithstanding the shortness of the descent, the horses were overpowered; and

the carriage ran against the post on the left side of the bridge, leaving no room on that side for the fourth horse. Of the six horses which drew our carriage, four run abreast. This poor animal was thus pushed over the chains which are fastened round the edge of the bridge instead of rails, and dropped out of all the harness, so that he fell without the least impediment into the canal. This passed in a moment, and without either myself or my companion seeing any thing of the matter. We felt that the carriage had run against the post, and that one of the shaft-horses had fallen; on which I jumped out of the carriage at the opposite side. The first thing I saw was a horse swimming from under the bridge towards an open sluice, where he must have perished. The people drove him back: on which he swam under the bridge again; and, having reached the shore a little below, shook himself, and began grazing very quietly. It is incomprehensible to me how the animal could get loose without hanging in some part of the harness. While things were being put to rights, I measured the breadth of the canal; which I found to be twenty-three feet, and the depth to the surface of the water eleven feet. This canal, about fourteen miles in length, joins the lake Hielmar and the river Ulvison, which latter is navigable between Arboga and the lake Mälär.

We reached Kongsör early enough to take a long walk at the western extremity of the lake Mälär. The village of Kongsör has a highly romantic situation on its shore; standing principally on naked rocks, between which we here and there perceive a patch of cultivated land.

From Kongsör we proceeded on the 31st of July to Eskilstuna; a town celebrated for its manufactures, which are considered of such importance that it was particularly recommended to us not to omit seeing them. It is not far out of the road; and I am glad I have seen the place, as it has given me a tolerably correct idea of the state of the Swedish manufactures.

Charles XI. turned his attention to the improvement of this place, with which another, called Gustavusstadt, was united. The whole was declared a free-town; that is, the artisans were in a certain degree released from the restraints of the chartered companies. Every journeyman who has worked upwards of three years may set up for himself, without being liable to molestation, or being obliged to pay for his liberty. The whole place is, indeed, full of work-shops; and most articles of iron are manufactured here. Yet the establishment is altogether insignificant; and I really believe that the annual produce of Walker's manufactory at Rotherham, amounts to twice as much as the collective produce of all the artisans of Eskilstuna. A merchant of the place who conducted us about, and who spoke

French, informed me that in the whole, there might be about sixty masters, who kept journeymen and apprentices; but that a master who had twelve of both, was thought to be in a capital way. The work is not divided; so that each learns to do every thing, even though he may not perfect himself in all the branches of his art. The consequence of this mode of proceeding is, that the work is coarse and dear. I inquired, in different shops, the price of various articles; and found that English commodities of the same kind are better, or at least neater and cheaper. There were grinding-mills at this place; but, for what reason I know not, these are very little used, and that operation is generally performed by the hand. I saw a needle-maker who has divided his work among his children and two other persons; but the Swedish needles are clumsy, and indeed more so than in any other country that I have seen.

I was taken to a very expert workman in steel, a man who possesses great talents and industry. In his house I saw a great number of very neat and tasteful productions: as steel buttons with portraits or landscapes on them; ornamental works, and even etchings on iron, from which he takes impressions like copper-plates. He, however, told me, that he was a loser by them; as the people of Sweden could only afford to pay for articles that are perfectly plain, and of the first necessity; and I can easily believe him. The man likewise shewed me scissars, knives, &c. inlaid with gold; resembling those of Carlsbad, but much superior and better finished. These are matters of fancy; and people of taste will always prefer the simplicity and high polish of the English manufactures. I asked the price of the common articles, and found them to be dearer than those of England.

We were then conducted to the river which joins the lake of Hielmar with that of Mälär. Like most of the Swedish rivers, it is full of rocks, has a rapid current, and contains several falls. It has, however, been found to be navigable for small boats; and one of the principal manufacturers actually conveys his goods by water. On this river are situated two mills for grinding iron or steel; and several stamping-mills, in which I observed nothing different from those of other countries. In short, for Sweden this is a very important place; but if we compare it with the English manufactories of iron and steel, it is scarcely worth mentioning.

These people possess that spirit of freedom and independance which is generally found in manufacturing towns. On the assassination of Gustavus III. such was the indignation of part of the inhabitants of this place, that they talked of marching to Stockholm, to revenge the death of their sovereign; and the

duke of Sudermania is said to have been on the point of sending troops to keep them in awe. No nobleman could, for a considerable time, make his appearance in the town, without being insulted; and one man whose name caused him to be mistaken for another person, narrowly escaped with his life.

After a delay of four hours at Eskilstuna, we proceeded to Mariefred: This town is situated in a charming country, in a corner formed by the lake Mälär; one of the most picturesque and romantic lakes I ever beheld.

The delightful situation induced the Swedish sovereigns some centuries ago to erect a palace-house; which, considering the times in which it was built, is a beautiful structure. Though it does not accord with our present ideas of pomp, elegance, and convenience, yet it has an air of grandeur; and its round towers and pointed cupolas remind the spectator of the views of Constantinople. Some of the apartments are still habitable, and are occasionally visited by the Swedish monarchs. This palace contains a great number of portraits of persons of the royal families of Sweden and of all Europe, as well as of many great and celebrated men; but most of them are wretched performances. I was much pleased with finding the portraits of some peasants, who, as it seems, are deputed on the birth of a prince, and stand as sponsors at his christening.—Two of the apartments which have been left without alteration, are remarkable in the Swedish annals. In one of them, which is still in tolerable condition, and decorated in the manner of those times, Eric XIV. confined his brother John, whom he afterwards set at liberty. For this the latter deposed him and treated him with savage inhumanity. He was confined in the same castle, but in a gloomy dungeon, which is still shewn.

Having seen every thing remarkable at Mariefred, we proceeded on the 1st of August by way of Söder-Telje to Stockholm.

 LETTER IX.

TOPOGRAPHY OF STOCKHOLM.—THE CITY.—THE RITTERHOLM.—NORDERMALM.—ADMIRALTY-HOLM.—CASTLEHOLM.—BECKHOLM.—LÄNGHOLM.—RÄCKINGSHOLM.—KONGS-HOLM.—LADUGARDSLAND.—SÖDERMALM.—FARTHER PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO THE CITY AND KONGSHOLM.—CARLBERG.—THE ROYAL PALACE.—COLLECTION OF PICTURES.—THE MUSEUM.—THE OBSERVATORY.—LAPLANDERS.—THE PARK.—DROTNINGHOLM.—THE KING AND ROYAL FAMILY.—MANUFACTORY OF CAPTAIN APELQUIST.—ON SWEDISH MANUFACTURES IN GENERAL.

STOCKHOLM, *August 5th, 1798.*

DURING the first three days of my residence in this place, I strolled about so much that I have already seen every part of this great metropolis.

Stockholm is situated on the northern and southern shore of the lake Mälär, and likewise comprises a number of islands lying between them. The greatest part of the town stands upon the continent; that part on the southern shore being called Södermalm, and that on the northern Nordermalm. These two large portions of Stockholm are by Büsching denominated suburbs, though for what reason I know not. The ancient town may originally have been composed only of the island, which is still distinguished by the appellation of the City; but this now forms a very small portion of the whole.—I shall speak of its different parts regularly.

1. On this island, or the city, are situated the beautiful residence of the sovereign, called the New Palace; the church of St. Nicholas, or the great church; the bank, the corn-market, the spacious custom-house, and a great number of other elegant buildings. It has also a handsome and spacious quay; and though towards the west it is bounded by the lake of Mälär, yet it is, strictly speaking, a sea-port. The palace occupies a great portion of this island, and commands a view of every part of Stockholm; at the same time, it towers far above all the other buildings of the city, and is visible on every side. The city is connected, by means of bridges, with the Ritterholm towards the west, with the Nordermalm towards the north, and with the Söder-

malm towards the south; and all these parts of the town lie so close together, that they can scarcely be perceived to be separated by water from each other. Thus, for example, on the north side of the palace there is a fine large square; which, though it appears to be contiguous to that edifice, is situated in the Nordermalm: Close to this island, and westward of it lies a smaller, called the Ritterholm.

The Ritterholm contains an extensive square, near which is the church of Ritterholm, which makes a good appearance, and is the burial-place of the royal family. Here likewise are situated the edifice in which the nobility assemble as one of the states of the kingdom, and the town-house; in which latter are two halls,—one appropriated to the meetings of the citizens, and the other to those of the peasants at the diets. In this island are also the old palace, with the chamber of models, and the regalia; and the academy of fine arts.

I ought not to omit the island of the Holy Ghost, which lies between the city, the Nordermalm, and the Ritterholm; but it is so small, and is situated so close to the city, that it is not in general considered as a distinct island. Here are the king's stables, which are an extensive and splendid structure. In the city and the Ritterholm are likewise the great Swedish school; a German, a Finlandish, and a French church; a synagogue; the Academy of Sciences, with its library and other collections; the Mint; and the College of Mines, with a fine cabinet of natural productions.

3. The Nordermalm begins with the great square already mentioned; in which the palace of the princess Sophia of Sweden makes a distinguished figure; as does also the opera-house on the opposite side, with the following rather singular inscription: *Musis Suecicis Gustavus III.* “To the Muses of Sweden, Gustavus III.”—In the middle of this square, on a pedestal of finely polished granite, stands the gigantic equestrian statue of Gustavus II. It is of bronze gilt; the king is in armour, and the figure appears very stiff. Not far from this place is a magnificent edifice called the Club, where some of the nobility and foreign ministers assemble.

From this square a street conducts to a quay, near which stands the Stepholm church. Between the square, this quay, and that of the city, is the port of Stockholm, where all the large vessels lie. The small vessels which navigate the lakes of Mälar and Hielmar, lie westward of the town and the Ritterholm. Between the city and the Södermalm are draw-bridges that permit vessels to pass out of the fresh into the sea-water, which however is not very salt.

The Nordermalm also contains the ancient arsenal, which is now converted into a theatre, where Swedish plays are performed;

the royal gardens; the surveyor's office, where are maps of almost every part of Sweden; the great orphan-house, and that maintained at the expence of the freemasons; the workhouse on the Sabbath mountain; the churches of St. Clare, St. James, and Adolphus Frederic; the observatory; the exhibition of models of the patriotic society; the institution for the reception of the widows of citizens; the lying-in hospital; Drotning-house; and the mineral waters of Nordermalm. From the Stepholm church, a bridge conducts to the Admiralty-holm.

4. The Admiralty-holm, or island of the Admiralty, is principally composed of naked romantic rocks: and contains the naval arsenal; which strangers cannot, without considerable difficulty, obtain permission to inspect.

5. The Castle-holm is thus denominated from a small fort or castle, constructed on a naked rock, and situated upon it. This is almost the only building on the island.

6. Beckholm has still fewer inhabitants than the last preceding.

7. Langholm, or the Long Island, belongs to the city; but only a small part of it is inhabited.

8. Räckningsholm is an island of no importance whatever.

9. Congsholm, or the king's island, is situated to the north of the two next preceding. Only the small portion which lies nearest to the Nordermalm is built upon. The greatest part consists of gardens, or desert rocks. It contains a church, the glass-house, the royal hospital, and two mills which command views so delightful and so *unique*, that no traveller should leave Stockholm without seeing at least one of them. The buildings on a part of this island, though belonging to the city, have rather the appearance of a village. Most of the houses are of wood, and badly constructed: they are frequently separated by gardens, naked rocks, windmills, &c.

10. Ladugards-land, or Lands Border, on the northern part of the Nordermalm, likewise belong to the capital; but the remotest part is not much better than a wretched, filthy, unpaved village. Yet I found here some agreeable views; for Stockholm possesses the property of combining the picturesque and romantic, with the pomp and beauty of a metropolis.

In this part is situated the Hummel-garden, belonging to the king; together with another, which likewise lies within the town, and is called the king's garden. The latter is an agreeable place for walking, and at certain seasons is much frequented for that purpose. The Hummel-garden would scarcely be worthy of notice, were it not from its being situated within a city. It contains alleys

and green plots that are not in the best order, but on that very account have a certain rural and unusual appearance which pleased me. In this portion of the town, strangers are likewise shewn the church, which is not worth seeing; Fredericshof, containing the arsenal and collection of artificial curiosities; the artillery-house; the laboratory; and the docks.

11. Hitherto I have only conducted my reader to those parts of this metropolis which lie to the north, east, and west, of the city properly so called. There still remains a large and important portion of Stockholm, situated south of the city, and denominated Södermalm; which is of much greater consequence than the King's-island, or Ladugards-land. In this part, which is contiguous to the city, are a great number of good stone buildings; but they dwindle away the farther you proceed, till we arrive at a village bounded with gardens and an uncultivated country. Here we see the iron-house, which is an immense magazine of that principal product of Sweden. The number of bars of iron, the bustle of the people who are incessantly employed, the continual clanking of the metal, and the black and gloomy appearance of the whole, produced a singular impression upon me; and I always stopped whenever I passed the place. Here likewise are the docks belonging to this portion of the city, the senate-house, the Greek and Roman-Catholic chapels, the churches of St. Mary and St. Catharine, with their schools and work-houses, the hospital, the mad-house, and the house of correction. Many parts of the Södermalm command beautiful views; of which I shall only mention that from the steeple of St. Catharine. The Södermalm is situated in the province of Södermannland, and the Nortermalm in Upland.

12. Many also reckon the island of Little Hessingen, which is almost entirely uninhabited, a part of Stockholm. It must be distinguished from another called great Hessingen.

13. Lastly; Beckholm, an island of no consequence whatever, is likewise added, by some, to Stockholm.

I scarcely know how to give an idea of this extraordinary city, it is so different from all that I have ever seen before. I never met with greater extremes in one place. Those who maintain that Stockholm is beautiful, and a magnificent city, are perfectly right: for the royal palace and the stables, the square in the Nortermalm, the beautiful quays, (especially that in the city, contiguous to the palace) many of the buildings in the Ritterholm, and several of the statues, fully justify that appellation. It is, however, not the less true, that a great portion of Stockholm is composed of mean houses, constructed of wood; and even of miserable huts, inhabited by persons in the most indigent circumstances.

The City, as it is called, consists in a great measure of handsome stone buildings. Many parts, it is true, are not equal to others; but, upon the whole, it is not inferior to other capitals; and the same may be said of the greatest part of the Ritterholm. If you go from the City and the Ritterholm, to the Södermalm and Nordermalm, you, at first, meet in every direction with handsome regular streets. Proceed no farther, and Stockholm will appear like any other metropolis; but the farther you go, the more you find the number of good houses diminish, till they, at length, dwindle away into cottages. You then arrive at immense naked rocks of granite, between which you meet with gardens, wind-mills, tobacco-plantations, and wretched huts, all of which belong to the town, and are situated within the inclosure by which it is surrounded.

In these parts of the town I have met with situations, in which I imagined myself among the Alps, where I saw nothing but a few miserable wooden huts, scattered among the wildest and most romantic rocks, which conceal the other part of the city so completely, that you imagine yourself in an uninhabited country. If, however, you ascend to the summit of one of these rocks, you enjoy the most romantic, and at the same time the most magnificent views of a splendid metropolis; in a word, you survey, with one look, palaces, churches, islands, lakes, harbours crowded with vessels, intermingled with naked rocks, and all the rudeness of Alpine scenery. - This it is that renders Stockholm perhaps *unique* in its way. I never beheld from one point of view any thing so beautiful, so magnificent, and so sublime, nor yet any thing so mean, so rude, and so wild, within the circumference of a metropolis.

The Royal Palace, situated in what is called the city, is one of the most extensive, splendid, and regular buildings of the kind I ever saw. During the reign of Charles XI. it was commenced, upon the plan of a M. Tessin, which, however, was not strictly followed. The turbulent reign of Charles XII. and a variety of other circumstances, delayed the removal of the royal family into it till the middle of the last century, and it was not till the reign of the late king that it was completed. It is a regular square, inclosing an extensive court, and having a high terrace on the side towards the sea. Besides the apartments of the king, the queen, the queen dowager, and the dukes of Sudermania and East Gothland, it contains a very neat chapel, the hall of the states, a gallery of paintings, the museum, and the king's library. The apartments are well contrived, and, if kept in good condition, they would be handsome. In their present state, they exhibit an extraordinary mixture of pomp and meanness. Even the frames of almost all the windows are worse than I would suffer to be in the

worst rooms of my house. The late king was always in want of money, and during the regency many of these apartments appear to have been entirely neglected.

The Gallery of Paintings would be of little importance in Italy; but it would be in vain to expect any choice collection of art in this northern latitude, and in a country so depressed by poverty; so that the spectator ought rather to wonder at finding so much, than that he does not meet with more. It is not my intention to assert, that it does not contain several good pictures, but it is not a royal collection.

The Museum is of far greater value; I am indeed astonished, when I consider that the articles it contains were collected only by Gustavus III. It is, strictly speaking, a collection of antiques, which has been denominated the Museum, probably after that in the Vatican. The antique statues, vases, and large chandeliers are arranged with taste in a saloon which combines simplicity with beauty. In a smaller apartment behind the former, are the busts, the smaller statues, and bas-reliefs. Among the statues there are not only many good ones, but some which would attract notice in any collection; among the rest, a Minerva, with an extremely beautiful head, several of the Muses, and a Priestess. But what deserves particular attention, is an Endymion, in the finest style, and of very great value. It is a figure somewhat larger than life, lying asleep, and quite naked. One foot and a small part of the face are new.

The palace stands just high enough to overlook the greatest part of the city, the islands, and adjacent country. It is a view at once magnificent and sublime. The lofty terrace affords both a delightful prospect and an agreeable promenade. The garden belonging to the palace is likewise very pleasant. It is situated on an eminence, which, though lower than many of the circumjacent buildings, is considerably more elevated than the quay. In this part of the quay, close to the water side, is to be placed the colossal statue of Gustavus III. the pedestal of which, of very fine granite, is already erected.

The chapel belonging to the palace is pretty, but in no wise remarkable.—The hall in which the King assembles the states, when he wishes to address them as a body, is spacious, and of a handsome figure. All the architectural embellishments, though in a good taste, are only of wood. In a building of this kind, and in a country where so many beautiful species of stone abound, this circumstance is rather striking. As the states are now seldom convened at Stockholm, this hall is only used for public festivities.

Gustavus Vasa was the founder of the Royal Library, which has not been much augmented in the two last centuries; for it now

comprehends scarcely 30,000 volumes, and contains nothing of much consequence.

Stockholm likewise possesses an observatory. It is situated on a bare and desert hill in the Nordermalm, which is by far the most lofty in that part of the city, and overlooks all the others. Here is consequently a fine field for observation, but it is unfortunately uprovided with instruments. Professor Nicander, the astronomer and inspector, informed me that the observatory was founded by the Royal Society of Sciences, and is indebted for its existence to a few private persons, but principally to the celebrated Linnæus. A sufficient sum was collected to erect a house for the professor, and above it an apartment for making observations; so that it neither possesses any funds, nor has any allowance from the King. The professor has a few instruments of his own, and the rest are intended to be procured with the voluntary contributions of the friends of astronomy.

At the summer residence of the English ambassador, about four miles from Stockholm, I met with an Englishman who spent the whole of the last winter in Lapland, and proceeded as far as the 70th degree. He informed me, that no Laplanders were to be met with to the south of Tornea, though several of the provinces are denominated Lapmarks; that the real Nomadic Laplanders remove in summer to Norway, reside principally in the vicinity of the sea, and that I might probably go two hundred miles beyond Tornea, without meeting with a single family. In summer they are occupied in fishing on the sea-coast, in laying up provision for winter, catching seals, preparing skins, and in collecting various articles, with which, at the latter end of the summer, they return to Sweden, having first paid the King of Denmark his tribute, which they never fail to discharge. Those articles which they do not want for their own use, they convey in winter on sledges to Tornea, where they barter them for household furniture, iron, and other commodities.

STOCKHOLM, *August 7.*

Almost the whole of this day has been occupied with an excursion to Drotningholm (or the Queen's island), the most magnificent palace which the Kings of Sweden possess. It is situated on an island, the proper name of which is Löfön; but it is more frequently denominated after the edifice. The country between the metropolis and Drotningholm is extremely picturesque and romantic, but in the highest degree wild, bearing few marks of cultivation, and still less of inhabitants. It would indeed be difficult to render the smallest portion of these islands and district applicable to the purposes of agriculture; for they are principally composed of vast rocks, between which only the fir finds such a scanty nourishment, that I observed many

trees completely parched up and killed by the dryness of the season.

I expected to see in Drotningholm the most splendid palace in Sweden, but not to find there the elegance, the taste, the luxury, and the magnificence of Versailles. At an immense expence the late King collected here furniture, tapestry, gold, silver, porcelain, bronzes, statues, pictures, clocks, jewels, and decorations of every kind from the most elegant and superb manufactories of Europe. Such is the air of gaiety which at the same time prevails, and such the imposing appearance of the whole, that I never saw the country-residence of any sovereign, the interior of which deserves to be compared with Drotningholm. The same taste, cleanliness, and neatness, which are so conspicuous in the principal structure, are likewise displayed in the inferior buildings, which are very numerous, and have the appearance of being prepared for some grand festival. In a word, every thing announces the residence of a King, and though on a very reduced scale, reminds me of the splendour of the court of Versailles, when I visited it in the years 1787 and 1788.

The King, who has a good figure and an open countenance, is uncommonly grave for a person of his age; it is even said, that he has never been seen to laugh. I once had an opportunity of observing him for about a quarter of an hour, during which time he sat beside the Queen, without moving or uttering a word. I have been informed by persons intimately acquainted with the court, that he entertains a very high idea of his dignity, and that he is extremely solicitous to avoid every thing derogatory to his rank. Though his youth invites to familiarity, yet he knows how to keep every one at a proper distance by a certain coldness and gravity. Even the intimate friends of his early life, who in their former playfellow sometimes forget the sovereign, are said to have experienced a severe reprimand, whenever they have permitted themselves the slightest infringement of that reverence which is due to their Prince. This sense of his dignity may probably be the reason why he is always surrounded with the splendour and formality of a court; whereas many young princes of the present day are not very fond of the one, and gladly dispense with the other.

The reserved disposition of the King was manifested in his early years, during the regency. He concealed his sentiments relative to the proceedings of the Regent; but when he had assumed the government, he very soon shewed the resolution he had adopted. He has relinquished most of the measures of the duke of Sudermania, in order to prosecute those of his father; and the nation appears to be satisfied with his conduct; but rather, I conceive, because it is contrary to that of the Regent, than

on any other account. The young Monarch is said to dread nothing so much as the idea that any person possesses or seeks to obtain an influence over him. The very suspicion is sufficient to terrify him, and to induce him to break off all intercourse with the individual.

The principal object of his attention appears to be the finances, which he certainly found in a wretched situation. His father was fond of expence, and engaged in many undertakings, far beyond the ability of a country so poor as Sweden. His many journies, the purchases he made, the opera-house, the immense sums expended on Drotningholm and Haga, and on the construction of high-roads; and lastly, the injudicious and extremely unfortunate war with Russia, exhausted the exchequer, and involved the country in debt. The duke of Sudermania appears to have been utterly incapable of restoring the deranged finances.

For several years the expences both of the royal family and of the government in general, have been on the increase, and yet the poor Swedes are not in a condition to pay more taxes, for the country appears to me to be entirely exhausted. They have not been able, for a considerable time, to open any new channels of trade, and have even lost some which they formerly possessed.—The war with France is highly prejudicial to this country; its trade is cramped, its manufactures decline, and its mines are neglected. Economy is therefore the highest virtue which a King of Sweden can exercise; and this his present Majesty possesses, without, however, relinquishing his ideas of royal dignity, and a certain degree of splendour.

But to return to Drotningholm.—The library displays great elegance and taste; and the bindings of the books, which for a private collection are very numerous, are extremely rich and beautiful. The collection of natural and artificial curiosities is arranged in a most pleasing manner, but we had not time to examine it very minutely.

The decorations of the royal apartments are rather tawdry, and many of the pictures bear the stamp of the French school established by Boucher and Co. It may, in general, be objected to a great part of the embellishments of this palace, that they are not sufficiently manly, and appear more suited to the dressing-room of a lady than the residence of a King. We inspected every part of the building, though the family now resides here: indeed, so little ceremony was observed, that we were shewn into an anti-chamber, from which, to my great astonishment, I perceived the royal family at dinner. The company was in a gallery, open towards the antichamber, in which a numerous band of music was playing.

On our return from Drottningholm, I visited the mechanical manufactory, as it is denominated, of Captain Apelquist, of which I had heard a great deal; but which is nothing more than a manufactory of many articles resembling the common wares made at Birmingham, Sheffield, Rotherham, and London.

With regard to manufactures the Swedes are still very far behind; Sweden will long continue to send her iron to England, and to import the hardware of that country. The government gives them every encouragement, but the country wants two things, which no government can command, great capitals, and a people possessing the requisite industry. In all the shops which I have seen, and I have been in a great number, I have met with foreign commodities of every kind; and most of the articles in the houses of the opulent and the great are of foreign manufacture. Native productions are in general coarse, clumsy, and far from cheap. The prohibition of foreign commodities is of little use; means are found to introduce them, and certain merchants know how to carry on this branch of trade in such a manner as to render it a monopoly: the purchaser nevertheless finds but little choice in the shops, and is obliged to pay high prices, on account of the risks to which this contraband trade is exposed.

LETTER X.

POPULATION OF STOCKHOLM.—THE OPERA-HOUSE.—
SWEDISH THEATRE.—FREDERICSHOF.—HAGA.—UL-
RICHSTHAL.—ARTISTS OF STOCKHOLM.—ACADEMY OF
ARTS.—COLOSSAL STATUE OF GUSTAVUS III.—CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR.

Stockholm, *August 11.*

IN many statistical tables, the population of Copenhagen is stated to exceed that of Stockholm. The contrary I am, however, persuaded is the case. From the nature of its situation Stockholm is very extensive, so that it is generally computed to be upwards of twenty miles in circumference. Including the Jews, it is said to contain about 92,000 inhabitants, which is not a great number for a place of such extent, and yet, perhaps, rather exceeds the truth.

One of the principal structures of this city is the opera-house, where not Italian, but Swedish operas are performed. The late king was very fond of this amusement, which he himself laboured to promote. He wrote, or at least furnished the greatest part of the materials for, an opera, called *Gustavus Vasa*, which filled the Swedes with astonishment, and of which one of

my acquaintances at this place told me more than I wished to hear. This structure stands in the square in the Nordermalm, opposite the residence of the Princess of Sweden, which is of uniform size and architecture. These two edifices give the square, which is open on one side, and commands a view of the whole palace, a magnificent appearance. The opera-house is not large, but is very beautiful within, and has four tiers of boxes.

In this building there is likewise a suit of elegant apartments, constructed by Gustavus III. for his own use, where he very frequently supped with a select party. They are quite in the French style, display great taste, and contain some large pictures by Dupré, representing scenes at Rome, during the King's travels. These apartments are in much better condition than any in the palace. They were the King's favourite retreat, where he spent much time in his literary occupations, and lived in some measure like a private man. Adjoining to his writing-room is a small cabinet, which I should rather have taken for the *boudoir* of a Parisian *elegante*, than the apartment of a man and a monarch; but Gustavus III. was a complete Frenchman: in all that I see, and every thing that I hear concerning him, I recognise the Frenchman. We were shewn the place in the theatre where he received his mortal wound. He was carried into the above-mentioned cabinet; where, the same evening, he afterwards received several of the foreign ministers. He was then conveyed to the palace, where he died.

Besides the opera-house, this city contains another theatre, which is open in summer. You may easily suppose that I was not a frequent visitor, because my knowledge of the Swedish language is too imperfect to enable me to follow the progress of a play. I, however, went to see a comedy, the plot of which I perfectly comprehended. The softness of the pronunciation employed on the stage, and which differs considerably from that in common use, caused many expressions to sound very much like English. The words, *Gif mig eder arm, min bror*, pronounced by one of the actresses, approached very nearly indeed to the English—*Give me your arm, my brother*. The decorations were very pretty, and the performers, as far as I could judge, excellent.

Among the remarkable objects of this city, you may be sure, I have not omitted to see the Frederichshof, or the collection of artificial curiosities and armour. Mr. Coxe gives the history of all the persons to whom the articles belonged, which are preserved in this place, and enters into a prolix disquisition on the death of Charles XII. I have likewise seen the hat through which the ball penetrated; the gloves and sword-belt, stained with his

blood; have felt the weight of his clumsy sword, and handled the coarse cloth of his unornamented uniform. The Swedes are virtuosos of a particular kind; they are fond of preserving the clothes in which any person of note has been killed. This taste, I believe, is peculiar to this nation, for I do not recollect to have met with any thing of the kind in any other country. I never heard in France, that the clothes of Henry IV. were preserved, or that the English kept those in which so many of their kings and princes were murdered. The collection at this place has been considerably increased by the death of the late king; every part of the domino is here deposited, and even the shirt which he wore when he was assassinated by Ankerström. In the outer waistcoat you may perceive very plainly, besides the large hole of a pistol ball, several smaller ones near it, which must have been made by small pieces of iron, that formed a part of the charge. They have, likewise, consigned to everlasting celebrity the uniform in which the duke of Sudermania was wounded in the last war with Russia. I never saw a larger collection of colours taken from enemies than at this place. Among others, those taken from the combined Saxon and Polish armies, by Charles XII. are particularly numerous.

At a small distance from Stockholm, in the vicinity of the Nodermalm, is situated Haga, a place erected by the late king. Considered as an English mansion, it surpasses every thing I have seen in Sweden, and even in England would be surveyed with pleasure. Genuine good taste prevails in this place, and, what is still more, nature has done a great deal in its behalf. The adjacent country is wild, like all the vicinity of Stockholm, and the rocks, rearing their naked heads above the verdure, produce a fine effect. The house is small, for Gustavus built it for a retreat, where he could live far from his family and the society of the great. The apartments display great elegance and taste. I however discover the Frenchman in many things, especially in the furniture and decorations. The roof of the house commands a view that is remarkable and perfectly *unique*. You perceive the highest parts, and some of the largest objects in Stockholm; all the rest is concealed by naked rocks, which tower above the nearest trees, and the verdure of the pleasure-grounds. The other buildings at Haga are either small, or not yet finished.

About three miles beyond Haga is Ulrichsthal, the residence of the queen-dowager. It does not appear to be remarkable, excepting on account of its fine situation, and little pains seem to be bestowed on keeping it in repair.

A gentleman of Stockholm, who accompanied us to Haga, informed me, when we entered a certain room, that the conspirators had designed to assassinate the king in that palace, a con-

siderable time before he was killed. The man on whom the lot fell went round the house in the evening, with a musket, and observed the king seated at a table, employed in writing. The villain took aim at his sovereign, but could not muster sufficient resolution to fire. When Ankerström, who was implicated in the conspiracy, received this intelligence, he indignantly declared, that he would undertake the business. The second part of the anecdote I had from another person, who added, it might justly be said of Ankerström, that he sacrificed himself.

As soon as Gustavus III. had breathed his last, every thing assumed a different form. His will was set aside, and his friends were either neglected or persecuted. Regencies are generally disliked, and this appears to have been more particularly the case with that which succeeded the death of the late king of Sweden. His present majesty ascended the throne, and adopted all the measures of his father.

Stockholm contains a greater number of artists than a stranger would expect to find in such a city.—Mr. Pasch, director of the academy, and knight of the order of Gustavus Vasa, is little more than a portrait-painter; as such, he possesses merit, but not of the first degree. M. Dupré, a foreigner, but settled at Stockholm, is an historical painter, some of whose pieces, as I have already mentioned, decorate the apartments which Gustavus III. fitted up for himself at the Opera-house. These appear to have almost exceeded his powers. The artist, indeed, was not left to his own discretion; the king furnished him with the subjects, which represent scenes during his travels in Italy. The great number of figures, which he did not understand how to group with judgment, produce some confusion; and the modern dress has a bad effect in works of art, though the painter possessed the advantage of contrasting the ordinary European dress with the costume of Sweden, and occasionally with the Romish ecclesiastical habit.—M. von Breda appears to have the most business; and he justly deserves it, on account of the tasteful and spirited manner in which he paints portraits. He resided many years in England, and particularly selected as his model Sir Joshua Reynolds, whose manner he has very successfully followed. His portraits, which he treats as much as possible in an historical manner, are exquisitely coloured, and of the most pleasing kind. Italians, indeed, would say that he has too much of the modern English school, that is, that he is too solicitous to produce what is termed effect.—Mariller has for several years been almost entirely employed on decorations for the different royal palaces. I have seen some of his productions at Haga, which are extremely beautiful, and evince great taste.—Sergell, a

pupil of the French artist Archevêque, who resided many years in Sweden, is now the best sculptor in this country. I have seen some excellent productions of his chisel, and it is he who furnished the model of the colossal statue of Gustavus III. which is to be cast by Captain Apelquist.

At the Academy of Painting and Arts, I found a collection of casts of the Grecian *chef d'œuvres*, but it was not very numerous. I however recollect institutions of the same kind in Italy, where I have not seen more. In that country it is true, they may more easily dispense with them, because they have the originals nearer at hand.

I have seen Sergell's statue of Gustavus III. The figure is standing, and in the national dress introduced by the king, but which now is not often seen. It is, as you know, much more picturesque than ours, but has not the dignity of the ancient Roman costume: with the exception of the scarf, this dress has no folds; and all smooth drapery in sculpture produces a disagreeable effect. It appears absolutely to require either nakedness, or drapery with large folds, and to know no medium between the two. The statues of the Duke of Cumberland in London, of General Seydlitz at Berlin, and even that of the hussar Ziethen, prove this assertion. The statue of Frederic II. at Stettin, receives the principal part of its dignity and effect from the mantle, which is thrown over a portion of the figure, and breaks the stiffness of the modern uniform.—This statue, which is to be of bronze, and fifteen feet in height, will stand on the quay below the palace, where a vast pedestal of granite has already been erected for it. The situation is well chosen, the granite fine, and the polish admirable.

Among the charming views which are to be found within this city, I have not yet mentioned that afforded by the steeple of the church of St. Clare, and which I particularly advise the traveller not to omit seeing. In the church itself, I found a very beautiful altar-piece, representing the Taking of Christ from the Cross, beneath which was the following inscription:—*Jon. Hoffman, inv. et fec. Romæ 1766.*

LETTER XI.

UPSAL. — TUMULI AT GAMLA UPSALA. — OESTERBY. —
 DANNEMORA. — LÖFSTA. — THE FALL OF THE DALELF,
 NEAR ELFKARLEBY. — GEFFLE. — FAHLUN. — AVESTADT.
 — SALA. — GRAN. — ECKHOLMSUND.

UPSAL, 12th August, 1798.

WE left Stockholm at seven this morning, and reached this place before three.—Upsal is the handsomest and neatest of all the Swedish towns of the middling class, and, to compare small things with large, reminds me of Oxford. Its most magnificent building, though only of brick, is the cathedral church; but the beauty of the inside far exceeds that of the exterior. In my opinion it is the finest church I have seen during the last four years. It perfectly coincides with my ideas of a temple, combining magnitude, dignity, and simplicity. It is an ancient structure, but has been altered and adapted to the modern taste, though without any unnecessary or paltry decorations. Every thing is in its proper place, and all its parts are grand and noble. Such a cleanliness reigns throughout, as I have no where met with but in some English churches, and in St. Peter's at Rome. The interior is in the purest Gothic style, and the long row of white massive columns, affords from the end opposite the altar a view truly sublime. At that distance, the altar likewise makes a very fine appearance; but on approaching, you perceive that it is only painted wood: this large and high altar on one side, and the organ, which is also of great magnitude, on the other, are the only objects in the church which are ornamented, and are perfectly calculated to heighten the simplicity of the rest of the structure.

On the sides of the church are a great number of monuments, of which only one is particularly distinguished as a production of the arts. This is the monument of the Archbishop Menander, of variegated Italian and white Carrara marble, which displays great magnificence and taste. It was executed at Rome by the directions of his son, M. Von Fredenheim, who is now intendant-general of the king. The archbishop died in 1786. The great Linnæus has nothing but a common flat grave-stone, placed over him by his son, who is also dead. This church is likewise the burial-place of Gustavus Vasa, whose monument is very old and mean. Memorials of departed greatness or worth are left, by every generation, to be erected by posterity, who at length take up the matter, but mostly out of mere vanity. Thus the great statue of the above-mentioned monarch,

was not erected in the Ritterholm till two hundred years after his death, and it is only a few years since the memory of Gustavus Adolphus was honoured with one. The disciples and friends of Linnæus have lately decreed him a monument, which I saw at Stockholm, and which is to be erected in a new edifice in this town, of which I shall speak presently. It is of Swedish porphyry, and the inscription is of cast metal letters.

We were shewn the treasure belonging to the church, consisting of a great quantity of gold, silver, precious stones, &c. but nothing in comparison to what I have seen in many Catholic churches. My attention was particularly attracted by the cup which a Swedish general carried off from Prague, when that city was taken by the Swedes during the Thirty Years war. It is rich and beautiful in its kind, but it would not have interested me so much, had it not been the same which the enemies of Gustavus III. accused that monarch of having given to the Pope.

In the same apartment is kept the statue of the god Thur. It is, as far as I could discover, a clumsy, mutilated figure of oak. The left arm is wanting; the right, as in all the statues of ancient nations, has been attached, but the hand of this is deficient. The thighs just commence, and are broken off short below the hips; the beard is a large shapeless mass of wretched workmanship. A friend of mine in Saxony had requested me to examine this statue with particular attention, because, from an engraving which he had seen, he is led to believe, that it was not intended for the god Thur, but for a figure of Christ. The historical data which we have relative to this statue, are very doubtful, and such an error may be possible. The lower part of the face and beard certainly have something of the Nazarene character.

The library of the university is said to contain 52,000 volumes. The apartments are good and clean, but have nothing remarkable; the work which principally attracted my notice was, the *Codex argenteus* of Ulphelas, containing the four Evangelists in the Gothic language. You know how much has been written on this subject, some maintaining that the language is Gothic, while others contend, that it is Frankish. Be this as it may, all writers agree that it is one of the most ancient manuscripts in the world, and probably of the fourth century. It is a middle-sized quarto volume, the paper of which has a purple cast. The letters are handsome and regular, and many of them resemble the Greek capitals.

In one of the apartments of the library is a large box, on which stands another of smaller dimensions. Both of them are secured with strong chains and locks. These are presents made by the late King to the University, with the injunction that they

should not be opened for fifty years. Here is a field for the conjectures of the curious. They will probably be found to contain a history of his own time, with various documents, letters, &c.

From the library we went to the botanic garden, namely, the old one, formed by Linnæus, which will probably long retain its rights; for, as I was informed, there is little hope of the completion of the new one, which is intended to be established in the garden of the King's palace. It is neither large nor valuable, but it was interesting to me on account of its founder. The collection of foreign plants is said to be important; but that of living animals consists of a few Indian goats, a porcupine, an ape, and a hare. I know not whether my face indicated an approaching smile, but I was immediately conducted into another apartment, in which there were two foreign birds! In the collection of serpents and fishes, I, however, saw many things which attracted my notice.

The collection of the celebrated Thunberg, the present professor of botany and natural history, who published the details of his nine years travels in Europe, Asia, and Africa; is much more important. He was not in town himself; but Dr. Ullin very politely shewed us his collection. Thunberg resides in the house which once belonged to Linnæus. It is small and mean; his really beautiful collection is so crowded and confused, that it reflects disgrace on the government, and the university in particular, as he has had the generosity to bequeath it to the latter. The son of Linnæus applied his father's collection to a very different purpose; he sold it to an Englishman.

I was particularly interested with various articles from Japan, where Thunberg resided a considerable time. I believe he was surgeon to a Dutch vessel. I saw with pleasure a male and female rein-deer stuffed; and likewise, the small Lapland bear, which is no bigger than a large spaniel: he, however, sometimes attacks cows, which he dispatches and devours. I had never before seen antelopes or gazelles of the size of our largest deer; they were from the Cape of Good Hope. Those belonging to the late Duchess of Portland, which I saw at Bulstrode, were, like all the others that I have met with, small.

The royal palace at Upsal is situated on an eminence near the town. It is every thing but handsome, and resembles a capacious prison. Adjoining it is a garden, which is kept in excellent order, and has some agreeable walks. Gustavus III. presented it to the university, and it is in future to be the botanic garden, when the other will be given up. In this garden the late King directed an extensive building to be erected with a handsome façade, with eight stone columns. Here are intended to be the hall for bota-

nical lectures, and the apartments of the professor; the remainder will be appropriated to foreign plants, if the undertaking should ever be completed; of which, as I have already observed, little hope is now entertained. In this edifice the monument of Linnæus is to be erected. It is eleven years since this building was commenced, and it is still very far from being finished. The palace is empty, excepting a few rooms, which are kept for the occasional accommodation of the King.

OESTERBY, *August 13.*

We left Upsal about one o'clock, and in half an hour arrived at Gamla Upsala, or Old Upsal, where I stopped to examine some *tumuli*, similar to those which are found in so many countries of Europe and Asia, and are considered as the original monuments erected to princes and great men. These are indeed so regular, both in their formation and position, that they can scarcely be supposed to be the effect of chance. I must, however, observe, that in this country I have met with many hills which bear more or less resemblance to those that I have found in different parts, though they are not quite so regular, and all of which probably were not the work of human hands.

The country, for twenty miles after we left Upsal, is the most abundant in corn of any I have seen in Sweden. Every foot of land, excepting the naked rock, is in tillage. The country afterwards grows wilder, the rocks, which are granite, gradually become more frequent, and the woods of fir more extensive. We then arrived at the lake of Dannemora, which is rendered extremely beautiful by its numerous small islands, which are principally covered with trees.

Having proceeded for some time along this lake, we arrived at Oesterby, a place remarkable for its large furnaces. Mrs. Peil, the proprietor of the whole, received us with the politeness of a woman of quality, shewed us the furnaces herself, and then conducted us through her extensive domain. She lives here in the rural grandeur of a princess, has a noble and spacious house, stables with sixty horses, twelve carriages of different kinds, gardens, hot-houses, and pleasure-grounds. Every thing bears the appearance of taste and splendour, which are generally the consequences of great opulence. The iron-mines here are what estates and lands are to the great and the wealthy in other countries. They are superintended by the nobility, to whom they principally belong.

Of the extent of the works at this place you may form some conception, if I repeat what Mrs. Peil told me. She fixed the number of her labourers with their families at eight hundred. These do not live in detached huts or in villages, but reside in

houses, all of which belong to this lady. They are built in regular rows, and each house contains two families. Each of these double houses stands at a certain distance from the two next, but so as to form a street, each side of which is lined with trees, forming an alley in the middle. It is impossible to describe the peculiarly pleasing appearance of these rural streets, which are situated at some distance from the mansion of the proprietor. The houses are all of such a class, that they would not be a discredit to a town, and extraordinary cleanliness prevails throughout. Some of the buildings belonging to the works were covered with iron-plates, and part of the mansion with copper; a luxury which I have frequently observed in Sweden, and in which the inhabitants indulged probably in those times when that metal was proportionably of little value. I must still observe, that Mrs. Peil told me, that her labourers were the descendants of Huguenots, or, as she denominated them, Walloons, that is, French Protestants, who settled here upwards of a century ago. Twenty or thirty years since they understood a little French, but they now possess no knowledge of that language, and Swedish is their mother tongue.

Dannemora is the most celebrated iron-mine in Sweden.—This, as well as that at Fahlun, is totally different from any I have seen in other countries. Instead of having a descent similar to those of the mines of Germany and other parts, the aperture of the principal shaft at Dannemora is about as large as the most extensive market-place of any German city, and affords the very interesting spectacle of a great number of people at work in the different parts in open day-light; so that the spectator at the top may overlook at once all the various operations of the labourers.

This mine was commenced in the year 1527. The ore yields 70 to 75 per cent. and some even from 80 to 90. The total number of shafts is 97; but only 23 are now in use. The mine yields annually 150,000 skipponds (about 18,000 tons) of iron, which is the best, and consequently the dearest, in Sweden. The greatest part of it is exported to England. The number of horses employed in the works is 144. The labourers in the pits amount to 487; but the total number of persons of both sexes, employed at this place, is 1579. There are no furnaces near the mine, but the different proprietors, most of whom reside in the neighbourhood, convey the ore to their estates, where it is melted and hammered: after which, it is transported a considerable way by land, and then by water through Gefle to Stockholm, &c. As the places where the ore is drawn up, appeared extremely dangerous, I enquired whether accidents did not frequently occur, and was informed, that in the course of a year three lives were lost on an average;

but that during the present, five persons had already perished.

GEFFLE, *August 15.*

Leaving Oesterby, we proceeded about 20 miles to Löfsta, a noble mansion belonging to the Baron de Geer. Compared with the residence of many English gentlemen, this place would make an inconsiderable figure, though celebrated by the natives as one of the largest and most magnificent country-seats in Sweden. It is certainly very extensive, and comprises a great mass of buildings, but the principal structure has nothing very remarkable. I saw some family-portraits by Vandyke, but I very much doubt, whether all or even any of them are genuine. The library is a very good collection, and contains a great number of drawings, engravings, and expensive works on natural history, machines, travels, &c. I likewise found there the scarce work of Count Marsigli concerning the Danube.

On the way from Löfsta to Geffle, we came to one of the grandest scenes of nature that I ever beheld, the fall of the Dalelf near Elfcarleby. Of all the waterfalls of Italy, Sweden, Norway, and Ireland, none bears so much resemblance to that of the Rhine near Schaffhausen. Comparisons are generally unjust, for there are scarcely two things in nature which resemble each other in all their parts. Many prefer the Swedish fall; others consider that of the Rhine as more picturesque; and others again give a decided preference to the latter. I shall therefore content myself with saying, that the fall of the Rhine is not dishonoured by a comparison with the Swedish. The Dalelf, which signifies the river of Dalecarlia, has not by far so much water, but it covers a greater space, and produces a grand effect; being divided by an insulated rock, it forms two falls by the side of each other. A little lower down there is a third, which is smaller. All the three may be seen at once from several points; but the two larger are so near, that both of them may be brought into one view. The rocks are, as usual, of granite, and overgrown with fir, pine, or larch-trees. The violence with which the water precipitates itself from rock to rock, is inconceivable; and the figures of the rocks are such, that the water between them forms an object highly picturesque. The current below the cataracts is continually interrupted by rocks, till it receives the tribute of the third fall. The river then becomes deeper, is compressed into a narrow channel, and again forms a kind of fall by the impetuosity with which it rushes between the surrounding rocks.

At this spot a wooden bridge, between three and four hundred feet in length, has been erected over the river. I was informed that the architect is a peasant, who can neither read, write, nor

draw. At first sight, this bridge presents nothing very striking ; but when you reflect that the pillars which support it stand in the midst of an impetuous torrent, and that the water breaks against each of them with the utmost violence, you are at a loss which to admire the most, the bold design of the architect, or his caprice in selecting this spot for a bridge, while the river is perfectly placid a little lower down ; but there, indeed, a bridge would be less convenient.

The Dalelf, though one of the largest rivers in Sweden, is un-navigable. It is remarkable that this kingdom, which is of greater extent than Germany, has not a single navigable river worth mentioning. The Gotha itself, after leaving the lake Wenner, is not navigable for a considerable distance ; and even where it is navigable for a short space, it has so little depth as to admit only vessels of a moderate size.

We arrived in good time at Gefle, which by many is reckoned the fifth, and by others the sixth, town in Sweden. Like most of the other Swedish towns, I thought it an insignificant place, though it is a sea-port, and one of those which are said to have the most extensive trade. It does not contain six thousand inhabitants.

August 17.—Fahlun is the capital of Dalecarlia, and the northernmost point of our travels in Sweden. The whole country between Upsal and Gefle is rather level than hilly, and continues so till you reach the province of Dalecarlia, which is extremely mountainous : at first, however, the eminences are not very elevated, but become more lofty as you proceed. Fahlun is entirely encompassed with mountains.

On the whole way from Stockholm to this place, I have seen a great number of lakes ; but I am now so accustomed to them, that even the most beautiful have no longer any charms for me. The woods consist entirely of fir.

On leaving Gefle I found the country at first thinly inhabited ; but on approaching Fahlun, it assumes a wilder aspect, and the population increases. I frequently saw a kind of wooden machines, which I had before observed in other parts of Sweden, but which are much more numerous in this province. The month of August is often rainy in Sweden, and the people are obliged to get their harvest in wet. As they cut down the corn, they hang it upon the bars of a kind of frame, either placed horizontally, or of a pyramidal form.

It was the Dalecarlians who protected Gustavus Vasa, and who seated him on the throne. Their attachment to the reigning house has continued without abatement ; so that Gustavus III. when he found himself deserted by his nobility, repaired to this province, the inhabitants of which promised him their strenuous

support. It was they, too, who formed the resolution of avenging his death.

We passed five hours in viewing the mines of this place. The copper mine is probably the most ancient in Europe: the exact period when it was commenced is not known; but the earliest grants relative to it are of the 14th century. Here truly reigns the abomination of desolation. What accumulated mountains of stone, on which for ages, not a single blade of grass will appear! In what eternal smoke the whole country is enveloped! what a noise from nearly two hundred engines and their apparatus! This picture of desolation begins as you leave Fahlun, on the southwest, and extends without interruption to a great distance around. The stones extracted for centuries from the mines are piled up into so many barren mountains, that strangers are obliged to have a guide, lest they should lose their way in the multitude of roads which run like streets between them.

The principal opening of this mine, like that at Dannemora, is of very great extent, but none of the labourers are here exposed to view. You would scarcely credit that I have been to the depth of 160 fathoms, without descending a single ladder. The descent to the bottom of the great open pit, is by means of wooden stairs. Here you proceed a short distance on level ground till you arrive at a house which stands contiguous to the rock, and is properly the entrance of the mine. The guide is provided with several bundles of splinters, which he lights one after the other. You now continue to descend by wooden steps, which are, indeed, neither very well made, nor kept in good repair. The horses, however, are conducted by the same way into the mine, and where a horse can go, it cannot be very difficult for a man to walk. The passages form a labyrinth of streets, which are mostly hewn out of the rock, though they are here and there constructed of wood, and some few are formed of brick. Between twenty and thirty horses are employed in the mine, and these animals see the light of day only once a year, namely, at Christmas, when the subterraneous labours are suspended for a time. We came to many shafts, which, though perpendicular, yet conducted to the outside of the mine; it is through these shafts, and not by the way we went, that the ore is conveyed.

Though we descended to a considerable depth, yet the copper is entirely exhausted in all the passages which we traversed; and with the exception of one or two, the ore is found only in the lowest shafts. The part of the mountain containing the ore, was originally of the figure of an inverted cone. The nearer the

works approach the end of the cone, the narrower of course the region impregnated with the metal becomes, and the lower they must be sunk. In consequence, the expences increase every year; and many imagine, that in less than twenty years, the mine must be relinquished, probably before the ore is entirely exhausted, because the profits will be too inconsiderable to defray the charge of working. It is remarkable, that no traces of this metal have been discovered in any other part of the country.— In the year 1650, when the produce of this mine was at the highest, it yielded about 2500 tons; but at present, the annual produce falls short of 500 tons.

All the ore extracted at Fahlun is melted in about 70 furnaces, of which 60 are situated in the town, and the others in the neighbourhood. The ore contains, on an average, no more than two per cent. The number of miners is 800, but I could not learn that of the labourers employed at the furnaces. The whole concern is divided into 2500 shares, the proprietors of which are dispersed through the kingdom, but many of them reside at Fahlun. The latter have their own furnaces, but the others agree for the smelting of their share of the ore at a stipulated price. The king receives one eighth of the produce.

At this place there is likewise a vitriol-manufactory, where both green and blue vitriol are made. I also saw here, what I had never met with before, a great quantity of old iron of every kind, which is sprinkled with vitriol water. The acid gradually dissolves and consumes the particles of iron, till it at length disappears, and the whole mass is converted into copper.

The population of Fahlun is said to amount to 6000 persons, and the place is situated in the latitude of $60^{\circ} 40'$. As the furnaces are at work night and day, the town is enveloped in continual smoke, which is seen at a considerable distance on every side. Every thing is destroyed by it, and the copper with which the two churches are covered, is obliged to be renewed every thirty or forty years, in consequence of its injurious operation.

August 18.—We left Fahlun early this morning, and reached Avestadt before four o'clock. On leaving Fahlun, the country assumes an appearance of extraordinary beauty. A great portion of the tract between that town and Avestadt, in my opinion, surpasses any in Sweden in richness, magnificence, and fertility. It is, indeed, more wild than the celebrated provinces of Nörige, Westmannland, and Södermannland; but it is on that account more picturesque, and contains more pasturage, mountains, and wood, and in cultivation it equals any in Sweden. It has an infinity of charming views, to which a multitude of small lakes,

and the majestic Dalelf, which we repeatedly crossed, not a little contribute.

Avestadt has an agreeable situation, and is a lively place on account of its copper-works. That metal is not only refined here, but is wrought into a variety of articles, into sheets, pots, stills, &c. Copper nails are likewise cast for ship-building.

August 19.—It is 28 miles from Avestadt to Sala, where we arrived before noon. The country between the two places is pleasing and woody; the hills are low, and it is neither so rich and beautiful, nor so interesting and populous, as that between Avestadt and Fahlun.

Sala is a small place, and contains nothing worthy of notice. About two miles from the town is situated the most ancient silver-mine in Sweden, but its produce is very inconsiderable.

August 20.—Gran is 35 miles distant from Stockholm. On the way to that place we made a circuit of three miles to see Eckholmsund, a mansion which formerly belonged to the King, but has been purchased by a Scotchman of the name of Seaton. We found two large edifices, between which the centre building is wanting. One of these the proprietor is fitting up for himself, but the other has been retained by the King for his reception, when he occasionally visits this quarter. The neighbourhood of an arm of the lake Mälar, numerous trees and romantic rocks render the situation very fine, and the whole has a good deal of what Brown denominates *capability*. It is, however, not much indebted to art, excepting for a few old plantations of trees.

LETTER XII.

ABY.—SÖDER TELJE.—NYKÖPING.—FINSPANGE.—NOR-
KÖPING.—LINKÖPING.—BOXHOLM.—EKESÖ.—LEN-
HÖFDA.—BÜBBETORP.—CARLSCRONA; THE NEW DOCKS,
MAGAZINES, &c.—RONNEBY.—CHRISTIANSTADT.—
YSTADT.

CARLSCRONA, *August 29.*

WE left Stockholm on the 23d, on which day we went but about 50 miles, to the village of Aby. Till we reached Söder Telje, an insignificant place, the road was the same as we had gone on our way from Norway to Stockholm.

I was again struck with the extreme wildness and romantic appearance of the country which surrounds Stockholm on every side. In general, every thing assumes a milder aspect as you approach a capital, but here it is the very reverse. Whether this is the reason why so few of those country-seats of the opulent and the great are to be met with in the vicinity of Stockholm, which generally

enliven and embellish the neighbourhood of a metropolis, I will not undertake to decide. The principal cause is the general want of that wealth possessed by the higher classes in more southern countries. The tract between Stockholm and Aby, was for the greatest part woody, mountainous, full of rocks, and thinly inhabited.

At noon of the 24th we arrived at Nyköping, one of the principal towns of Sweden, with a harbour, and situated on a river of the same name; I was much delighted with the cheerful, and in part, romantic appearance of Nyköping. The view of naked and romantic rocks, afforded by so many Swedish towns, gives them a peculiar character which I have not met with in any other country. I here ascended a bare and very lofty rock, which lies almost within the town. On the opposite side, towards the harbour, I saw the ruins of what was formerly a very strong castle, and the residence of the kings of Sudermania.

Between Wreta and Krokek, before we arrived at Norköping, we came to Finspange, an iron-manufactory belonging to the Count de Geer, where cannon, and most of the coarser articles of iron, are cast and made. The residence of the proprietor is a handsome structure. This nobleman appears to be an *amateur* and a patron of the arts. Having thus discovered some talents in a young peasant, he took him under his protection, and, I believe, maintained him during his residence abroad. His name is Höhrberg; he is now one of the best painters in Sweden, and is principally employed by the Count, with whom he resides. I saw three altar-pieces by him, in three different churches, at Norköping: two of them were presented by the Count. I found in all of them grandeur of composition, boldness, and spirit; but his colouring is not the most pleasing, and his heads are deficient in dignity. It likewise appears to me, that he does not perfectly understand the art of grouping his figures.

Norköping is the fourth town in Sweden. Many consider it as the third, and give it the preference to Aby. My host, a tradesman, of whom I enquired the population of this place, mentioned the round number of 20,000 souls. The truth, however is, that the highest computation does not make them exceed 12,000; and I am confident that the present population is considerably below that number.

I never saw a town more advantageously situated for manufactures and commerce than Norköping. The river Motala, one of the largest in Sweden, divides it into two parts, is navigable in the town for very large vessels, and discharges itself at a little distance into the Bay of Brä Viken, formed by a part of the Baltic. But what gives it a peculiar advantage is, that the Motala, which is very broad, precipitates itself over rocks in the

midst of the town, and forms at least a dozen waterfalls. On these innumerable water-mills might be erected, with little labour and expence. This advantage has not been improved as it might; yet when I looked down the river, from many parts of the town, I discovered a great number of mills, most of which, however, were not at work.

I had already observed in many different places, that the manufactures of this kingdom are far from flourishing; but here in the principal manufacturing town, every thing appeared to be entirely at a stand. I wished to see the manufacture of fire-arms, but was informed that it had been relinquished for some time, and in its stead, a manufacture of English leather had been established. I therefore went to see the latter, where I was told that leather was made in the English manner, but was informed that it was not at work: and the same was the case with a celebrated manufacture of nails. My host boasted much that a manufacture of oil, which they were formerly obliged to procure from Holland, had lately been established. I went to see it, and found a common stamping mill, in which they were stamping lint-seed, or rape-seed, imported from Riga. I inquired for the cylinders, but was informed that they were kept a profound secret, which no person was permitted to see. The houses for sugar-baking appear to be in the most thriving condition.

The most considerable manufactory at Norköping, is one of brass, which is said to have formerly employed three hundred persons. Here a great number of articles were made of that metal, but particularly brass-wire. I was shewn an extensive building, that contained at least twenty machines for that purpose, all of which might be worked by water, but not one of them was in use. In another building I saw the machines for making plates, but all the cylinders were taken away, and the general appearance announced, that they had not for a long time been employed. In a word, thimbles were the only articles on which any person was at work; and another building contained a quantity of brass prepared for melting.

This decline and inactivity in the manufactures of this place was solely ascribed to the war and the risk attending exportation. I am, however, firmly persuaded, that there must exist other causes, which probably more or less depress all the Swedish manufactures: as there is a want of sufficient skill, and a proper division of labour; a want of industry and invention; and lastly, a want of capital. The war, and the risk attending exportation may certainly be co-operating causes, but that I am justified in assigning others, you may perceive from this circumstance, that the articles of Swedish manufacture are in general dear, if it be considered that this country possesses the

raw materials in abundance, has coals cheap, and besides contains rivers that save the expence of steam-engines, to which the English are so frequently obliged to have recourse, on account of the want of falling water.

But I found the strongest confirmation of my opinion in the town of Norköping itself. We were conducted to a cabinet-maker, who manufactures a variety of elegant articles of furniture. I found there writing-desks, bureaux, &c. of very beautiful workmanship: but when I minutely examined the metal locks and embellishments, I imagined that I discovered in them the character of English workmanship. On inquiry I found that the fine metal work was from Birmingham. And yet Norköping is the first manufacturing town in Sweden, situated in a copper country, where all these articles are made, which possesses peculiar advantages with regard to water and fuel, and where workmen's wages are much lower than in England. I leave you to make the application yourself, and to judge whether the war is the principal cause why these manufactures are at a stand.

Among the various articles of glass which I saw at the same place, I found much English glass, which is the dearest in Europe; and yet Sweden has glass-manufactures of her own.

Great quantities of woollen cloth are made at Norköping; but the wool for the finer cloths is imported from Germany and Spain. English cloth is prohibited; it is however smuggled over, and, notwithstanding all the risks to which this mode is liable, it is sold at a lower price than the native manufacturer can afford to take for articles of the same quality.

Linköping, at which place we arrived on the 25th, is one of the superior towns of the third class, and has a very large and handsome cathedral.

On the 26th, we went from Linköping, by way of Boxholm, to Ekesjö. Boxholm is an iron mine situated in a romantic country, where the falls of the river, together with the works constructed on its banks, produce an effect highly picturesque. Between Linköping and Ekesjö, a distance of 70 miles, we met with not a single town, and I cannot say much in commendation of the latter. The only apartment provided for us at the inn was so wretched, that we sought and procured a lodging at a private house. On the 27th we arrived at Lenhöfda, and on the evening of the 28th at Carlscrona.

The tract of country between Linköping and Carlscrona, a tract of above 260 miles, is wild, mountainous, full of naked rocks, and so covered with woods that only a very small portion is in cultivation. There are very few villages, and those are small and thinly inhabited. The woods are principally composed

of fir intermixed with some birch, and a few other trees. Great part of the way we were continually on the ascent or descent, without, however, seeing any very lofty mountains.

However dreary such a country may appear to the eyes of the politician, to the painter and the lover of nature it is exquisitely beautiful. The continual alternation of hill and dale, of forests and romantic rocks, of furious torrents and meandering streams, together with the numerous lakes, render this country highly agreeable to the traveller.

As we approached the province of Blenkingen, the country gradually became more tame, and the firs and pines made place for other trees. The rocks were still very numerous; they did not indeed, consist of such vast shapeless masses as before, but were broken into such romantic forms that I could not forbear lamenting the want of an opportunity to take views of some of them. These picturesque masses of rock extend, as I afterwards found, beyond Carlscrona, till they at length terminate in a level and sandy country which continues to Ystadt.

The country on each side of Carlscrona, is one of the most picturesque tracts that I know: its woods are composed of alder, beech, but principally of oak, which is entirely devoted to the use of the navy. Such is the economy employed in the use of this kind of wood, that all the timber consumed by the navy is not the produce of Sweden, but part of it is imported from Germany. I have, notwithstanding, occasionally seen extensive forests of oak in the western parts of Sweden, but you know timber is only valuable when it grows near the spot where it is used, or where there is the convenience of water-carriage.

About seven miles before we arrived at Carlscrona, we came to an extremely neat mansion, called Bubbetorp, which belongs to a native of Sweden, who resides there.

We spent the greatest part of the 29th in surveying whatever is remarkable at Carlscrona.—This place is, you know, the great and the only port for Swedish men of war; the works, of which, during many years, so much has been said, principally consist of the old and new docks, of which the former are described by Coxe and Büsch.

Though the idea of hewing out of the rock a place for reception and repair of ships, was bold and grand, yet it is far surpassed by that of the new docks. The greatest part of the latter as yet exist only on paper, though Coxe spoke of them nineteen years ago. Not more than a tenth part is yet completed, but three-twentieths are so nearly finished, that they will be speedily ready for use.

According to the proposed plan, there are to be twenty receptacles for the same number of ships of the line, where they are to

be kept dry and under cover. If this plan were executed in a manner similar to that adopted at Venice, the difficulty and expence would not be very great. Here, on the contrary, the ships run immediately from the sea into these docks. It was, therefore, necessary to erect vast works against the violence of the sea, to construct a solid foundation for the walls and dams, as well as for the spot on which the ships are to stand, and to provide the whole with gates, about forty-eight feet in breadth, and almost thirty in height. The ground was quite uneven, partly covered by the sea, partly very low, and partly presenting high hills of granite. It was necessary to remove the latter, to fill up the former, and to prepare the ground. The projector conceived the bold idea of filling up the deep parts by covering the bottom with flat stones, and cementing them with puzzolana, and this idea was executed with complete success.

The figure of the new docks is a semicircle, which is divided from the centre to the circumference into four parts. In each of these divisions are receptacles for five vessels, separated from one another, and which can either be laid under water or kept dry. Each has a distinct gate, and a detached edifice with a copper roof. The walls, or rather the vast dams, nearly forty feet thick, are of hewn granite, filled up in the middle with earth. The four principal divisions have each one common entrance for the five ships which they contain.

Of all the four divisions only one has been completed since the year 1761, and in this only, two out of the five docks are ready for use. Nothing has yet been done towards the other divisions, except excluding the water. The ground is partly granite and partly a peculiar kind of marl, which is excellently adapted to the use of sculptors for modelling. M. Söderling, who is the director of the works, informed me that the difference in the expence of working the one or the other, was so trifling as to be scarcely perceptible at the end of the year. The former is blasted, and is immediately serviceable on the spot for the construction of walls, while the latter must be dug up and carried away.

Two hundred labourers are daily employed here during six months in the year. They each receive only a schilling and a half (about $2\frac{1}{4}$ d.) per day, and a loaf which costs the king about three half-pence more. The reason why these labourers receive such low wages, is, because they are all land-soldiers, that is such who do not in general appear in uniform, but are exercised at certain times. Each of them has a hut, and a small piece of land which is given them by the crown.

As docks are constructed for no more than twenty ships of the line, you perceive, from that circumstance, that this must be

the extent of the naval force of Sweden. At the present moment the efficient force is considerably below that number. They have in all only 19 ships of the line; most of these were in the last war with Russia, in which some of them received great damage, so that if only the serviceable vessels were to be reckoned, the number would be considerably reduced. The largest Swedish ships of the line are only of 74 guns; of these, they have no more than five, and the remaining fourteen are of 64; that is, such as the English never place in a line of battle, but when obliged by necessity.

The number of frigates and small ships of war I was unable to learn. Part of them lie at Stockholm, and part at Gothenburg; those whom I asked appeared unwilling to satisfy my curiosity on the subject. I then made enquiry for what in England is called the Navy List, and which is there printed every month, and instead of which, a kind of calendar, that appears here annually, was given me. I there found the names of the officers; but the number of ships, their names and rates, were prudently omitted. Mr. Coxe states the total number of Swedish ships of the line at 28; this was very probably correct at the time, for Gustavus III. was anxiously intent on the augmentation of his navy. The inexperience of his men in the management of two fire-ships, near Wiborg, destroyed a great part of his vessels, which were consumed; and he was obliged to set fire to others, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Russians. In the present war with France, nothing can be expected of Sweden. Besides the insignificance of her fleet, such is the state of her finances, that she would scarcely be able to equip and to man the few vessels she actually possesses. There are not wanting persons who even assert that Sweden has not, for the last 80 years, been in a condition to man her fleet entirely herself. There is a deficiency both of money and men. This country contains fifty thousand square miles more than Germany; and her population does not exceed, at the utmost, 2,700,000 souls.

I once remarked, that the Dutch ships are much more bulky than those of the same rate in the English navy. I had occasion to make the same observation with regard to the Swedish, in which the difference is still more striking. On this subject I have been very positively contradicted, both in Sweden and Denmark; but my eyes must deceive me very much if a Swedish 64-gun ship is not as bulky and heavy as an English vessel of 74.

In the hull of Swedish ships of war, large iron nails are used for purposes in which only wood or copper are employed by the English. I had an opportunity of seeing very plainly the reason why the former metal is rejected. Some of the timbers, at cer-

tain distances, are occasionally taken out of the sides of the ships in the dock, to ventilate the whole of the hull. On this occasion, I saw several of those iron nails extracted; they were all rusty, and must consequently corrode the wood in which they are fastened.

We were introduced to Admiral Chapman, a venerable old man of 77, whose name is well known in the history of naval architecture. He possesses all his faculties in full vigour; and has just made a trial on a large scale, of an invention, to which he has for some time devoted his thoughts, and which consists of an improved method of making cables.—The old Admiral speaks English very well. He accompanied us to Captain Bilang, of the navy. The latter is a native of Finland, and one of the best artificers in ivory that I am acquainted with. He executes landscapes, figures, ships, in a word, every thing in ivory. Every part is well designed, and completely finished; but, upon the whole, his performances want taste. Many are of the diminutive and laborious workmanship of the sixteenth century, and remind me of a thousand things contained in the cabinets of artificial curiosities, which I can never see without lamenting the loss of time, and the waste of talent. M. Bilang's works will bear viewing with a microscope; but for what purpose does an artist produce performances which are too fine to be discerned by the naked eye? This man executes whole pictures, and landscapes with buildings, water, ships, men, and animals.

We saw the arsenal, where M. Trettier shewed us the same politeness that we experienced from all the officers with whom we here became acquainted.—What most interested me in this place, was a very large manuscript map of the Islands before Carlsrona, of which there cannot be less than one hundred. These, together with the shallows, preclude the possibility of any hostile attack. There is only one way by which ships of war can enter, namely, between the Islands of Aspö and Turkö, on which are situated the batteries of Kongsholm and Drottningskiär, by whose guns the passage is completely commanded. There was formerly another entrance, which has been blocked up, by sinking some frigates. There is still another entrance for small vessels.

Carlsrona itself is situated on an island, or, it may be said, on several; if some detached parts, erected on very small islands, be included in the town. It is pretty extensive, and contains many good houses; but a great part of it was burned down about eight years since, and many of the ruins still remain. The new town-house is a very handsome structure; and the same might be said of the German church, which is not yet finished, if the cupola, covered with copper, were not so low,

in consequence of which, this edifice, when not seen at a distance, has but a mean appearance.

That part of the town in which the King's docks and the buildings belonging to the Admiralty are situated, is separated from the rest of the place by a lofty stone wall. This wall is remarkable for having been erected by the Russian prisoners, taken by Charles XII. The intention of this wall was, to secure the buildings and the harbour against any fire that might break out in the other part of the town. It has since been declared of no use ; and Admiral Chapman, while he commanded the port, ordered the upper part to be taken down, and other buildings to be erected with the materials.

I have not yet spoken of the present harbour and docks for the men of war. It was formerly difficult to obtain a sight of them, but now they cannot be viewed without special permission from the King. While we were at Stockholm, we had applied to the English minister, through whom we hoped to obtain this permission ; but he appeared so extremely unwilling, and said so much concerning the possibility of a refusal, that we at length resolved not to run the risk. I was not particularly desirous of seeing the magazines, and the other requisites of a dock-yard ; but I certainly had some curiosity to survey the docks, which are hewn out of the rocks. In order to give us a view of the harbour from without, and an idea of its extent, Admiral Chapman's son took us to Stubholm ; an edifice with a small tower, on an island, connected by means of a bridge with the town. This was one of the most interesting scenes I saw at Carlscona ; for here I surveyed, not only great part of the harbour, but likewise the road, inclosed by the numerous islands of which I have already spoken. I likewise saw very distinctly, both the entrances and the two fortresses of Kongsholm and Drottningsskär.

M. Tornquist calculated the population of Carlscona at from fifteen to eighteen thousand souls ; but from what I know of Carlscona, and the manner in which the Swedish towns are built, I cannot believe that it contains more than twelve thousand inhabitants.

YSTADT, *September 2.*

In our way from Carlscona, we passed through Carlsham and Christianstadt, and yesterday evening arrived at this place. Between Carlscona and Carlsham is situated a village, which exhibits greater opulence and activity, than many of the Swedish towns which I have seen. This is Ronneby, which is seated on a river, and appears to be perfectly calculated for manufactures ; and has a harbour with a considerable trade. Its situation is extremely picturesque ; and at one extremity of the place the river forms a fall, or rather several falls, which, with the adjacent

houses, huts, and water-mills, from one of the most beautiful views I ever saw.

Christianstadt appeared to me to be a wretched, disagreeable place, and very different from the many descriptions I had read of it. I found here none of those good houses I am accustomed to see in the towns of Sweden, nor a shadow of that opulence which manufactures generally diffuse. It is, however, the capital of a province, and the seat of the governor.

Ystadt is one of the middling towns of Sweden, and did not appear to be quite so bad as it had been represented. The harbour, if it at all deserves that name, is nothing more than an open bay, into which runs a mole, constructed of wood and stone. Within it were lying eight or nine vessels, which, as far as I could observe, were laden only with wood. As to commerce, Ystadt certainly has none; the retail shops may probably supply the place, and the adjacent villages. Part of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture, and principally in the cultivation of corn; for in my walks in the neighbourhood of the place, I could discover nothing but stubble, some tobacco, and very little grass land.

The adjacent country has some gentle eminencies; but, upon the whole, is rather level. A kind of sea-weed, that collects on the coast, on which it is washed by the waves, becomes putrid, and diffuses a horrible stench, which renders walking on the sea-shore extremely disagreeable.

Ystadt is not a post-station, but the government keeps two yachts for the accommodation of travellers. The passage, however, is so little frequented, that the days of departure are not fixed, and you are almost entirely in the power of the post-master. According to the King's regulations, one yacht ought to be constantly at this place, and another at Stralsund; but one of them has been bespoken above a fortnight, for the Duke of Sudermania, and he has not yet set off.

LETTER XI.

PASSAGE FROM YSTADT TO STRALSUND.—THE ISLANDS OF RÜGEN AND HIDDENSEE.—STRALSUND.—POPULATION OF SWEDISH POMERANIA.—GREIFSWALD.—AN KLAM.—UCKERMÜNDE—STETTIN—PYRITZ—SOKTIN.—NEUDAMM.—CÜSTRIN.—FRANKFURT ON THE ODER.—ZIBICHEN.—CROSSEN.—NAUMBURG ON THE BOBER.—SAGAN.—BUNZLAW.—LAUBAN, AND THE ADJACENT COUNTRY.

LAUBAN, IN SILESIA, Sept. 8, 1798.

ON the evening of the 7th, we set sail in one of the yachts stationed by the Swedish government at Ystadt for the convey-

ance of passengers, and arrived at Stralsund at one in the afternoon of the 8th, having gone eighty-five miles in nineteen hours. During the last eight we constantly had sight of land, for at day-break the island of Rügen appeared in view. As we approached the mouth of the Oder, it was gradually concealed by another, named Hiddensee. Having coasted along the latter, for some hours, we again drew near the coast of Rügen, between which and the opposite shore of Swedish Pomerania, we were obliged to luff up during the remainder of the time. The narrowest part of the streight between Rügen and the Continent, is not above two miles over.

What shall I say of Stralsund? And yet I cannot omit noticing a town which is commonly computed to contain twelve or thirteen thousand inhabitants, which passes for the capital of Swedish Pomerania, and has a trade which is far from contemptible. Towards the sea, this town makes a very good appearance; it has several large churches, two of which may even be called handsome. In the streets, which are not kept in the most cleanly condition, there are a great number of good houses, among which the residence of the Governor is particularly distinguished. The harbour contained more vessels than I have been lately accustomed to see in any of the ports of Sweden and Denmark, excepting those of Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Gothenburg.

M. Hulten, professor of mathematics and astronomy, at Greifswald, in the Calendar for Swedish Pomerania and Rügen, for 1798, states their total population in 1796 at 109,066 souls. Of these, 30,770 reside in the towns of Pomerania; 1437 at Bergen; 951 at Garz; 52,085 in the country and villages of Pomerania; 21,244 in the country and villages of Rügen; and 2579 men, women, and children, belonging to the soldiers in garrison; by which the Professor undoubtedly means at Stralsund. The population of the last mentioned town, exclusive of the garrison, he fixes at 10,907; that of Greifswald, at 5463; of Wolgast at 3496; and of Barth at 3145.

Stralsund has, you know, ever been a fortified town. During the last reign, the works were repaired and greatly improved, particularly towards the sea, so that it is now considered as a very strong place. I understand but little of fortifications, though I have seen a great number, most of which were constructed by Vauban; but I think that on the land-side Stralsund is far inferior in strength to many other fortified towns, and that it would not be able to hold out long against a siege, conducted in the modern manner. The town-house of Stralsund is a singular, beautiful, Gothic edifice, in a peculiar and very extraordinary style.

Swedish Pomerania is, on the whole, superior to what the

traveller would expect; the soil is not very bad, and far less sandy than other provinces in the same latitude. The villages make a very good appearance, and possibly the impression might be more favourable, because I have been for some time accustomed to those of Sweden.

We arrived in the forenoon of the 9th, at Griefswald, a very pretty and pleasing town. The churches, the principal buildings belonging to the university, and a great number of private houses, are respectable edifices, and the whole produces an agreeable effect. The university appears to be the least important part of the town; and I am told that the number of students is considerably below one hundred. It seems, however, not to be neglected by the government; and among other things, I found a tolerable observatory, the exterior of which, at least, looks remarkably well. Ships can come up as far as the town, between which and the harbour I perceived a considerable number, of various sizes. Close to the town are salt-works, which are said to be very productive, though the buildings in which the salt is prepared are but small.

We arrived the same evening at Anklam, the first Prussian town, close to the frontiers. In this place you perceive great bustle and activity; and I there saw a greater number of ships than I found in any of the harbours of the middling towns of Sweden: and the whole presents a much more pleasing aspect than many other small towns in the Prussian dominions.

We left Anklam on the 10th; and had scarcely proceeded ten miles before the increasing sands reminded us in what province we were. This road constantly runs along in the vicinity of the sea, or rather of that branch of it called the Frische Haff, though the traveller seldom obtains a sight of the water. At noon we reached Uckermünde; a pleasing town, with a port, and some trade. We then passed through extensive woods, principally of fir, and a sandy country, and arrived at the village of Falkenwalde, where we passed the night.

Early on the morning of the 11th, we proceeded to Stettin; a very handsome, and, what is very rare in this country, a very lively place. It contains a great number of very elegant houses, and some that, in many towns, would be denominated palaces. The Oder runs through the town, and forms the port, which, like that of Magdeburg, is beautifully picturesque. The river is here tolerably deep, and vessels, which the harbour of Stralsund is capable of admitting, can proceed as high as this place.

The country round Stettin is charming; and the lofty shore which borders the Oder on one side, affords delightful views. We received no small gratification from a walk we took to a fort, which, with some other works, covers the town. In the

river, which now widens and now contracts its current, are several islands, both above and below the town, which increase the charms of the prospect. In a word, Stettin and its vicinity, its commerce, the air of cheerfulness and vivacity which every where prevail, contribute to render it worthy of more attention than our plan would permit us to bestow.

Stettin contains a fine square ; in which is a pedestrian statue of Frederic II. in a modern uniform. The workmanship is exquisite (I believe by Schadow) ; and the artist has judiciously broken the stiffness of the dress, by a mantle thrown behind. The population of Stettin, including the suburbs and other structures belonging to the town, is computed at 22,000 ; in which number the military, consisting of about 5000 persons, are comprehended.

Leaving Stettin on the 12th, we proceeded to Pyritx, twenty-three miles ; and thence to Söktin, fourteen miles. Söktin is an insignificant place, situated on a small lake.

The distance from Söktin to Neudamm is fourteen miles ; and from the latter place to Cüstrin, nine miles. The situation of this fortress is remarkable, and rather uncommon. The bed of the Oder is so flat, and the adjacent country so low, that the river here extends itself in such a manner as to assume the form of a small lake, on which Cüstrin appears to float. I know not that I ever saw a more sandy tract than that to the north and south of Frankfurt on the Oder. If your carriage be heavy, the wheels sink a foot deep in the sand ; the horses proceed at a slow pace, and are obliged to stop every ten minutes, to recover their strength, and to take breath.

Frankfurt on the Oder, though a town of considerable importance, on account of its commerce and its fairs, has nothing very attractive for a stranger, who seeks to make no acquaintance with the inhabitants, among whom are said to be many interesting persons. We walked about the streets, and were much pleased at the sight of many large and respectable edifices, and the view of the river from the bridge. In honour of Kleist, whom I still consider as one of our first-rate poets, I went to see the simple monument erected to his memory by the Freemasons ; and with similar sensations I beheld the place where the generous Prince of Brunswick perished in the attempt to rescue a fellow-creature from a watery grave. The spot is distinguished by a beautiful monument of white marble. I was afterwards conducted to a church, where the humane act is commemorated by a painting. It is from the pencil of Rode ; who forgot that, though the persons represented are common people, there was no necessity to describe them as coarse, rude, and ill-favoured, and that the figure of the Prince wanted no such

contrast. Without the corpse of the latter, it would resemble peasant scene by some artist of the Flemish school. For the rest, Rode's disagreeable grey-green colouring appears to me to be more striking in this picture than in many other of his productions which I have seen.

After rambling about two hours in Frankfurt, we again set off, and had to cross another dreary desert of sand, so that we were seven or eight hours in reaching Zibichen, a wretched village, about fourteen miles from Frankfurt. We then proceeded about the same distance to Crossen, where, though we had eight horses, we arrived late at night.

From Crossen we went, on the 15th, to Naumburg on the Bober, the road still leading through a sandy country, which extends a considerable way into Silesia. The face of the country, however, gradually improves, the villages have a better appearance, and the population increases; in a word, many things announce to the traveller that he is no longer in the margravate of Brandenburg.

Naumburg is a small town, agreeably situated on an eminence. At its foot lies Christianstadt, a place with a much more pleasing appearance, and separated from the former only by the Bober, which here forms the boundary between Silesia and Lower Lusatia.

Though we, this day, travelled but twenty-eight miles, yet it was night before we reached Sagan, a pretty town, which, with the whole lordship, belonged to the Duke of Courland (since dead.) We went out the next morning to view the town, and some of the churches, of which two are very large, and richly ornamented. We were desirous to inspect the ducal palace, an extensive and stately edifice, but were informed that the Duke had strictly forbidden it to be shewn.

The distance from Sagan to Bunzlau is twenty-eight miles. Bunzlau is the most lively, the most agreeable, and the most populous, of the smaller Silesian towns that I have yet seen. The number of inhabitants exceeds 4000. The trade in cloth, earthenware, and other articles, procures them an independence, which appears in various ways.

An execrable road conducts from Bunzlau to Lauban, a distance of nineteen miles; but yet the country is not only interesting, but at times even picturesque. As you approach Lauban, every thing shews that you are entering the land of industry. The view of the town from this side is charming, and I might almost say grand.

That tract of Silesia, between Crossen and Lauban, is, on the whole, an agreeable, tolerably populous, and well cultivated country. The villages are in general superior to those of Branden-

burg, and in all the small towns through which I have passed, there appears a certain degree of independence and ease. To judge of Silesia in general, from the sixty or seventy miles through which I have travelled would lead to a very erroneous opinion of that country. This tract, though superior to many of the south-eastern parts, cannot however be compared, either for soil, cultivation, or industry, with those provinces that are situated between Upper Lusatia, Bohemia, Glatz, and Breslau. The soil of that part which I have traversed is too sandy to afford a sufficient remuneration for the toil of the husbandman; and the people, who are principally Catholics, seem to possess neither the vivacity, the activity, nor the industry, which distinguish the inhabitants of those parts situated in the vicinity of the Giant Mountains.

A great part of the 17th, and the whole of the 18th, I spent in surveying Lauban, and the adjacent country. The latter exceeded my expectations, though they were pretty high. What lovely vallies, filled with houses, trees, and inhabitants! It resembles some portions of the Erzgebirge, in Saxony; but in the latter, the forms of the country are not so pleasing, the foreground is not so mild, so fertile, and so full of trees; and the distant mountains are not so lofty. The houses stand detached, each being surrounded by its little meadow, kitchen-garden, and orchard; so that the villages, which are actually large, occupy a vast extent of ground. The Queis, a small but lively stream, winds through the vallies, and animates the landscape. Here you hear the shuttle of the weaver, whose linen is conveyed to the remotest parts of the earth; there the clothier is hanging his work on the tenters; and yonder the brilliant white of the bleaching-ground forms a striking contrast with the fresh verdure of the trees and the turf.

I am likewise delighted with the town itself. Lauban is very clean, principally constructed of stone, contains a great number of large and respectable houses, and, what is still more, it is not so dead as most of the Silesian towns of the middling class. It is remarkable enough, that very few persons have any idea of the number of inhabitants in the town in which they themselves reside. Büsching fixes the population of Lauban at 8000 souls; but this is evidently over-rated. I made enquiry on this head of several intelligent men, one of whom mentioned 4000; another between 4 and 5000; and a third gave a different statement. At length a magistrate of the place, who assured me that his official situation afforded him the means of being correct, stated it to be 5,600; and this number corresponds with the observations which I had myself an opportunity of making.

LETTER X.

EXCURSION TO MEFFERSDORF.—MARKLISSA.—SCHWERTA.
 —WIEGANDSTHAL.—MEFFERSDORF.—TAFELFICHTE.—
 FRIEDLAND IN BOHEMIA.—REIBERSDORF.—ZITTAU.—
 THE OYWIN.—HERRNHUTH.—THE BRETHREN'S HOUSE.
 —THE SISTERS' HOUSE.—THE SYNOD OF THE UNITY.—
 LANDSKRONE.—GÖRLITZ.—NATHE.—THE MOUNTAINS
 OF KÖNIGSHAYN.—MANUFACTURES OF UPPER LUSATIA.

LAUBAN, *September 27.*

WE hired a light carriage at Lauban, and, taking with us only one servant, set off on the 18th for Meffersdorf, about fourteen miles distant. I was particularly struck with the town of Marklissa, which appears to be crowded with inhabitants. Before every second house is displayed a sign, denoting some tradesman or artisan. The district round this little town is one of the most populous in the Elector of Saxony's dominions. Farther on we came to the village of Schwerta, than which nothing can be imagined more picturesque and more poetical. It is situated on the declivity of a narrow romantic valley, through which meanders a small stream, that forms numerous cascades.

As I am fond of walking, I frequently avail myself of some pretext for entering the cottages of the country-people, that I may have an opportunity of seeing their interior, as well as the manners of their inhabitants. Having arrived at a place where two roads meet, and the carriage being at a considerable distance behind me, I was at a loss which to take, and therefore stepped into the nearest house to enquire. Immediately on opening the door, a great number of instruments caught my eye. It was the humble habitation of one of those mechanics, whom almost all mountainous countries produce, and who are, in general, their own instructors. The man possessed a certain polish; his exterior was that of a peasant, and every thing I saw in his cottage exactly corresponded with his station. I was afterwards informed, that besides this man, there were two other mechanics in the same village, who displayed great ingenuity. I likewise saw at the mansion of M. Von Gersdorf, a large closet, full of instruments made at Schwerta, which belong to him.

During the last half hour we passed through a thick wood, and as soon as we had cleared it, our eyes were struck with an enchanting view, which I shall content myself with mentioning, without attempting to describe it. It is, however, one of the

most splendid and magnificent I ever beheld. It is sublime, and yet so mild, that it forcibly reminded me of the more happy plains of Geneva and Lombardy southward of the Alps. Here lies the village of Wiegandsthal, and the Castle of Meffersdorf, and a hamlet, the remotest houses of which border on the first declivity of the Tafelfichte. These form the fore-ground of the rich, lovely, and sublime picture. M. Von Gersdorf, the proprietor of these places, is a gentleman of extensive knowledge; who appears to live in the enjoyment of genuine philosophic tranquillity, and devotes his attention to the arts and sciences. His collection of physical and mathematical instruments is very valuable; and his cabinet of minerals is said to be one of the most select of any possessed by private individuals in Germany.

The Tafelfichte is productive to its very summit, and is covered with grass and trees. In many, even of the highest parts, it is swampy; this is likewise the case with the mountains of Ireland and Wales. Before we reached the top we came to a stone, which is the boundary of Lusatia, Silesia, and Bohemia. When you have arrived at the summit, the view is by no means so extensive as you were led to expect, because the mountain is not pointed at the top, but broad and flat. Box-trees grow upon it to a considerable height. Its elevation above the surface of the sea is, according to M. Von Gersdorf, 3545 Paris feet; so that it is not so high as the Fichtelberg, near Wiesenthal, on the frontiers of Saxony and Bohemia, whose height according to the same authority, is 3731 feet.

We had not proceeded two miles from Meffersdorf when we arrived at the frontiers of Bohemia, and entered the small town of Neustadt, where I immediately perceived that we were neither in Lusatia nor Silesia. Its filth and poverty formed a striking contrast with the towns and villages of Lusatia, where the poorest cottage presents an appearance of cleanliness, which attests the comfortable situation of its inhabitants.

We next arrived at Friedland, a small town, somewhat superior to the preceding, and on an eminence in the vicinity of which is situated the stately mansion of the Count of Clamm Gallas. Its architecture is in the style of the middle ages; and it is crowned with a lofty tower, which, as well as the chivalrous appearance of the whole structure, produces a good effect. This ancient and lofty castle having, however, been found inconvenient, a modern mansion has been erected just below it. The view from the highest part is fine, and rather striking; for, on one side, the declivity of the hill is almost perpendicular. During the first half of the Thirty Years' War, the celebrated Wallenstein possessed this lordship; and in 1634 it became the property of the house of Gallas.

Having proceeded four miles farther, we again entered Upper Lusatia, and soon arrived at Reibersdorf, the principal residence of Count Einsiedel. The mansion, erected by the present Count, is large, and in a good style ; and the interior is elegant and convenient. It contains a valuable library ; but I was disappointed of seeing the treasures of art preserved here, because the family was not at Reibersdorf.

Reibersdorf is about four miles from Zittau. Görlitz, Budissin, and Zittau, in Lusatia, and Chemnitz, Freyberg, Naumburg, and Plauen, in Saxony, are the best, the most important and pleasant towns in the Elector of Saxony's dominions, excepting Dresden and Leipzig. In its architecture, Zittau most resembles the latter. A great number of large and stately edifices seem rather to announce the residence of a prince, than a manufacturing town. Many of the houses, however, which were burned during the Seven Years' War, still lie in ruins, and in that state they will long remain, because the town is rather thin of inhabitants. The principal church is not completed, and yet considerable sums have been already expended in repairs, because the steeple is so badly constructed that it sinks, and carries the body of the church along with it.

Zittau, in regard to its trade and manufactures, is one of the most important towns in the Saxon dominions. Its situation, on the frontiers of Bohemia, promotes a considerable trade with that country ; and its linen manufactures are equal in produce to those of any other town in Upper Lusatia. Since I was at Zittau, a neat and commodious theatre has been erected there. Some of the wealthy inhabitants subscribed for shares ; the requisite number of subscribers was soon completed, and a convenient situation was purchased for the edifice. The country round Zittau is uncommonly beautiful, and affords delightful views.

On the 20th we made an excursion to the Oywin, a work partly of art, and still more of nature, at which I was astonished. It is an insulated, and almost perpendicular crag, a considerable way up whose side is situated a modern church, and whose summit is crowned with the ruins of a very ancient convent. Close to the foot of the mountain is the habitation of the schoolmaster, who likewise holds the appointment of Cicerone of the place, which his wife told me was the most profitable part of his office. From this house, a flight of fine stone steps, partly placed there, and partly hewn out of the natural rock, conduct to a small church, where a clergyman, who resides at the distance of four miles, officiates. One side of this church is hewn out of the rock. We continued ascending by steps to a door, which cuts off all access to the upper part of the moun-

tain, so that not even a dog can get up or down. The ruins of the convent, as well as of the ancient castle which is said to have existed prior to it, are extremely beautiful. The church, which is partly constructed of square stones, and partly hewn out of the rock, is likewise very handsome. The village, and the scenery round the Oywin, are highly romantic.

We left Zittau early on the morning of the 22d, and went to Herrnhuth, which is situated on the high road to Löbau, being about seven miles distant from that place, and nine from Zittau. I had time, after our arrival, to pay several visits; after which I went to the evening-meeting, which consisted of a long lecture out of the Old Testament. The language appeared to me to be so perspicuous and intelligible, and at the same time so manly and so pure, that I was at a loss to conjecture what translation it could be, till the minister came to a passage, which, I was sure, was not to be found in the Old Testament. I was afterwards informed, that what I had heard was not a translation, but only an extract, in which every thing objectionable and obscene, every thing that does not correspond with our manners, ideas, and principles, has been omitted. I shall say nothing concerning the attractions of the divine worship of the Herrnhuthers, nor of the dignified simplicity which pervades it, because those things are so universally known.

On the 23d we surveyed all that strangers generally see at this place, and I must confess that every thing fell short of my expectations. It was probably my own fault. But we Saxons have been accustomed from our childhood, to hear so much concerning Herrnhuth, and the productions of its inhabitants, that we form extravagant ideas, which it is impossible for them to answer. Herrnhuth is not a handsome place, nor has it that air of extreme neatness and cleanliness which we are accustomed to expect, from every thing connected with the sect, and for which Christiansfeld, in Sleswick, is particularly distinguished. Most of the buildings are small and insignificant. The houses of several persons of rank, and some of the tradesmen, are, however, very neat. The residences of Count Reuss, and of the lord of the manor, are large and elegant. The place is small, and is said not to contain more than 2000 inhabitants; but it is gradually increasing.

The Brethren's House, that is, the house inhabited by the unmarried men, and where they all work for the general benefit of the society, has a mean appearance, both internally and externally. They have their common dormitory and refectory; but there are tables at different prices, which each is at liberty to chuse, according to his taste and abilities. Most of them are artisans; and the excellence of their work consists in a certain neatness, finish, and durability. But as the articles made here

are on the whole better than those manufactured in other places, they are necessarily dearer.

In the Sisters' House every thing appeared to me to be on a better footing and a more extensive scale. The exterior is more respectable, the accommodations are superior, and the whole has a neater and more pleasing appearance. This is the habitation of the unmarried sisters, who are subject to regulations perfectly similar to those of the brethren.

What made the most impression on me was the burying-ground, which is situated on an eminence, commanding the finest prospect of any in the vicinity of Herrnhuth. It forms an extensive square, inclosed by a hedge, and intersected by alleys; over each grave is placed a flat stone recording the name and native country of the deceased, together with the year in which he *went home*, or, as it is more frequently expressed, *fell asleep*. The graves in the principal line, nearly in the centre of this ground, were particularly interesting to me; they contain persons from every country in Europe, and I might almost say from every part of the world. On the most elevated point of this burying-ground a kind of pavilion or small wooden tower has been erected, the view from which is extremely beautiful.

Do you know that the directors of all the congregations of the Evangelical Brethren in the world, reside in a village two miles from this place? It is called Berthelsdorf, and is by right the birth-place of the congregation, for it was there that Count Zinzendorf collected the first Moravian brethren. These directors are called the Unity's Elders' Conference, which is generally composed of from twelve to fourteen persons, who never have any fixed place of residence. These govern the whole fraternity with unlimited power during a certain number of years, at the end of which a synod, composed of deputies from the congregations in every part of the world, is held, and a new *Elders' Conference* appointed. The members of this conference constantly remain together, and the affairs of the Unity occupy their whole attention. In this conference the German nation appears to possess the same preponderance as the Italian in the College of Cardinals; indeed, I am informed that all the members of the present are Germans.

We left Herrnhuth in the afternoon of the 23d, and after ascending the Landskrone, the view from which is exquisitely delightful, we proceeded to Görlitz. The scenery around this place is not without its beauties, but it is far inferior to that in the neighbourhood of Lauban and Zittau, and the place itself has not the cheerful appearance of the latter. We here saw and heard the celebrated organ, which, next to that of Harlem, is certainly the finest that I know of in Europe. At the house

of M. Nathe, an able artist, we saw some good drawings, which were interesting to me because they represented remarkable scenes and views of these parts.

After dinner we went to Königshayn, a village about four miles from Görlitz, where we procured a guide to accompany us to the mountains called after the name of the village. These mountains are composed of vast masses of granite, on one of which has been erected a lofty column of the same kind of stone to the memory of M. Von Schachmann. This gentleman, the last of his name, was the proprietor of Königshayn, which now belongs to his widow, by whom the castle, though not inhabited by her, is kept in tolerable repair. I procured admittance into this edifice, because I was desirous to obtain a sight of Bach's celebrated drawing, known by the inscription of *Kayw en Agnadia*, which was in such request, that the artist was himself obliged to make several copies of, it that may in fact be considered as so many originals. For one of these he received 300 rix-dollars. It was probably this circumstance that induced Madam Von Schachmann to give a far greater sum for her drawing, which is said to have been the first of that subject executed by Bach.

No doubt can be entertained concerning the origin and singular appearance of the masses of granite on these mountains. They are the last remnants of mountains still more lofty, the whole of which have been destroyed excepting these harder masses, that have long withstood the ravages of time. But a great part even of these must have been destroyed, as is obvious from the fragments of the same kind of stone which lie scattered around.

On the road from Görlitz to Königshayn is situated the once celebrated Holy Sepulchre. Since the original has been declared a production of later times, the copy cannot be particularly interesting. It is no doubt, an exact representation of that which was shewn in Palestine, in the 15th century. The figures, the decorations, in a word, every thing belonging to it is destitute of taste, and bears the impression of the worst style of the middle ages.

The country between Görlitz and Lauban is not so fruitful and pleasing as those parts of Upper Lusatia which lie nearer the Giant Mountains. You alternately meet with fir-woods, sand, and corn-fields, and the population, though considerable, is inferior to that of the more mountainous districts.

There are few tracts in Germany which afford a greater variety of more interesting objects, within the compass of an excursion of six or seven days, than that we have just traversed. Here you find scenery always beautiful and sometimes sublime, an abundant population, opulence, fertility, a highly cultivated country, three or four handsome towns, several charming gen-

linen's seats, and an industrious and ingenious race of inhabitants.

The linen manufactures of Lusatia are on the decline, and they have sustained considerable injury from the present war. Great quantities of their commodities were formerly exported to Spain and South America. The general use of cotton-stuffs, which have in many instances usurped the place of linens, has not a little contributed to this decay. The cloth-manufactures are another branch of industry which has long been successfully cultivated in Lusatia, and especially at Görlitz. Within the last ten years considerable improvements have been made, particularly in the quality of the articles, both by the increased attention to the breed of sheep and the importation of Spanish rams.

LETTER XIII.

TOUR FROM LAUBAN AMONG THE GIANT MOUNTAINS OF SILESIA.—GREIFFENBERG.—GREIFFENSTEIN.—HIRSCHBERG.—WARMBRUNN.—M. PRELL'S VITRIOL-WORKS.—THE FALLS OF ZACKEN AND KUCHEL.—THE NEW BAUDE.—THE SNOW-PITS.—THE GREAT WHEEL.—SCHREIBERSHAU.—STONDÖRF.—SEYDORF.—STEINSEIFEN.—KAHL'S MODEL OF THE GIANT MOUNTAINS.—BUCHWALD.—SCHMEIDEBERG.—LANDSHUT.—THE CONVENT OF GRISSAU.—ADERSBACH.—WALDENBURG.—FÜRSTENSTEIN.—SCHWEIDNITZ.—THE ZOBTENBERG.

BRESLAU, 3d October.

FROM Lauban we proceeded to Greiffenberg, (nine miles) through a very interesting country, which continues the same as far as Hirschberg, a distance of nineteen miles, or becomes still more interesting on account of its increased population. On the whole way I saw a great number of large, populous villages; the country was highly cultivated, and I every where perceived traces of industry. For the first stage the road was bad, but improves as you proceed.

Greiffenberg is a small, but lively and agreeable town, full of bustle and activity. Its inhabitants are principally employed in the manufacture of linen. The castle of Greiffenstein, about two miles to the right of the road leading to Hirschberg, has a grand and romantic situation on a hill, which, though not very high, commands a charming prospect.

Hirschberg has a peculiar situation, such as I have not seen any where else. Being surrounded by a great number of hills, its vicinity presents a variety of prospects, which give a distinct character to each particular walk. All the adjacent country is

extremely populous, but the town itself is said not to contain 7000 souls. It is the residence of many wealthy tradesmen, and is considered as the first commercial town in Silesia, after Breslau. It contains among other things, a large sugar-refinery, in which thirty-eight persons are constantly employed.

We left Hirschberg on the 27th, and proceeded to Schreibershau, a village about ten miles distant. Four miles from Hirschberg you come to Warmbrunn, a small place in which the principal residence of Count Schafgotsch is situated. Almost the whole of this part of the country belongs to this nobleman, whose domains extend half way to Schmiedeberg, and on the other side to Meffersdorf and the Saxon frontiers. Warmbrunn has for some years been celebrated on account of its warm spring, which is said to afford great relief in paralytic cases. I was informed that during the summer there were never less than 400 strangers at this place. Its situation and the adjacent country are truly charming. At the extremity of the village of Schreibershau are M. Prell's vitriol-works, which are on many accounts worthy of notice. I am informed that this was the first establishment of the kind in the Prussian dominions, and that it has still but one rival. The annual produce of this manufactory is about 300 tons.

Immediately after our arrival at Schreibershau, we hired a guide to conduct us to the falls of the Zacken and Kuchel.—These are two small streams, each of which forms a charming fall, which to persons who have never visited Switzerland must be very interesting; but they cannot be compared to those of that country. The country in which they are situated is uncommonly wild and romantic, as are all the hills and vallies between Schreibershau and the lofty mountains behind that place. The fall of the Kuchel is scarcely 100 feet in height, and according to M. von Gersdorf that of the Zacken is not much more.

We returned the same night to Schreibershau. At day-break of the 28th we set off, and in a little more than two hours arrived at the new *Baude*, as it is denominated. This is the name given to the houses situated on the loftiest summits of the Giant Mountains, where strangers are received, but where no other refreshment is prepared for them than bread, butter, and milk. The house of which I am speaking must be at least 3500 feet above the level of the sea, and nothing but grass grows at this elevation. In less than an hour we had ascended the summit of the mountain; and crossing the naked rocks called Blue Stones, we arrived at the Snow-Pits. They are thus named because the snow lies in them the greatest part of the year, though we found none at all; but they are more particularly remarkable, because they are composed of nearly perpen-

dicular rocks, from which project detached crags in the form of lofty steeples. On one side they resemble the half of a crater, but yet it is contended that it cannot be an extinguished volcano. We then ascended the Great Wheel as it is called; this is one of the loftiest points of the Giant Mountains, being according to M. Von Gersdorf, 4661 feet above the level of the sea.

From this point we returned a part of the way, and then crossed the Bohemian frontiers, to arrive at the source of the Elbe, which here consists of some small rills, that descend from the heights, collect here and there in small ponds, and then precipitate themselves into vast abysses, called the Precipices of the Elbe. From the brink of the first of these, the collected waters fall to the depth of two hundred feet down almost perpendicular rocks, and this is called the Fall of the Elbe. It is very picturesque; but the descent, if you wish to view it from below, is extremely difficult, and requires the assistance of your hands as well as feet. We returned, after an absence of about eight hours, to Schreiberschau, and immediately proceeded to Hirschberg.

I cannot omit to take some notice of the interesting village of Schreiberschau. Its situation is very picturesque, on the declivity of a hill; the upper part is divided into two smaller places, which, however, are distinguished by different names.—Its inhabitants, like almost all those who subsist by agriculture, are full of activity and ingenuity. The cottages bespeak the poverty of their owners, many of whom are nevertheless very intelligent persons, and exercise arts which you are accustomed to meet with only in towns. The catalogue of all the articles made here would be too long; I shall therefore content myself with mentioning the glass-wares, various kinds of musical and other instruments, and innumerable articles of wood. Many of these mountain-artisans are their own instructors; children learn of the father; and others acquire their talents by observing their neighbour.

We left Hirschberg early on the 29th, and proceeded through Stondorf and Steinseifen to Schmiedeberg, a distance of about fourteen miles. The whole tract lies among the mountains and at the foot of the loftiest of the Giant Mountains. We first came to Stondorf, the residence of a Count Reuss; the gardens belonging to this nobleman are very wild, but on that account the more romantic; and from many points command the most delightful views.

An execrable road then conducted us to Seydorf; whence we continued our route to Steinseifen, to gratify our curiosity by inspecting the model of the Giant Mountains executed by a countryman named Kahl. It is composed only of clay and wood,

and is kept in a wretched wooden shed, in which I could not stand erect. It is a pity that the man employed materials so coarse and impossible to be moved; for the plan is well executed, and is said to be extremely correct. It represents only a small portion of the Giant Mountains; the Schneekoppe is situated nearly in the middle, and it comprehends several German miles on each side. The artist is dead, but his son inherits his father's ingenuity, and makes all kinds of animals of wood, which are all bought up by a tradesman of the place, who transports them to Frankfurt. The village contains a great number of artificers in iron, whose productions obtain a considerable sale.

Between Steinseifen and Schmiedeberg is situated Buchwald, one of the seats of Count Reden; the grounds belonging to which are very fine. Schmiedeberg is a most agreeable, open town, with a great number of good houses, many of whose inhabitants are very opulent; its total population amounts to about 3500 persons.

Landshut, at which place we arrived on the 30th, cannot sustain a comparison with Hirschberg and Schmiedeberg. It however contains many good houses, and exhibits the appearance of opulence and industry, the characteristics of all the Silesian towns situated among the Giant Mountains. The number of its inhabitants is about 3000.

Leaving Landshut early on the 1st of October, we proceeded to Grissau, a large Cistercian convent, with a mitred abbot, which is really worthy of notice. A few years since a beginning was made to rebuild it, on a plan of such grandeur as in these times, which are not very favourable to convents, not a little surprised me. The architecture, which in this kind of buildings in Germany is yet rather barbarous, is not destitute of beauty and elegance. The church is loaded with a profusion of ornaments, and calculated for the multitude, on which they never fail to produce an effect. The convent possesses several towns and a great number of villages, so that its revenues are very great.

We then arrived at the small town of Schönberg, about nine miles from Landshut, and in another hour reached Adersbach in Bohemia. Adersbach is a mean village, but it is visited by great numbers of strangers, for the purpose of inspecting the remarkable rocks situated in its vicinity. I never met with any thing that can be compared to these rocks; they consist of vast masses, which without any preparation rise from the middle of a perfectly level, verdant meadow, and some of which are said to be 200 feet in height. They are so numerous as to form a labyrinth, in which a stranger might easily lose himself. Each appears to exist independently of the rest, and forms an isolated column, commonly perpendicular on every side; and some of

these masses are of greater magnitude than the largest church-steeples. I perceived here no marks of that desolation which generally surrounds rocks of a similar kind; many of them rise from the verdant turf like artificial columns, whose architect, after completing his work, carefully removed the rubbish produced during their erection.

At Friedland we again entered Silesia, and arrived at Waldenburg, which has recently become a flourishing place, and takes a considerable share in the linen-manufactures of Silesia. I was surprised to find here a great number of large and handsome buildings, and an elegant new church in a good style. The situation of this pretty and cleanly town is extremely agreeable.

We left Waldenburg on the 3d, and proceeded to Schweidnitz. Near the road between those two places is situated the mansion of Fürstenstein, belonging to Count Hoberg. Its exterior has an air of grandeur; and the interior, though not magnificent, is furnished and decorated with elegance and taste. I was particularly pleased with the selection of engravings with which four of the apartments are richly ornamented. One contains nothing but views in Switzerland; another English engravings of English subjects; and a third, views in France and Italy. In a cabinet were hung twelve oil-paintings by Reinhard, all representing scenes among the Giant Mountains. In all these pictures the points of view are admirably chosen, but, the colouring is not good. The situation of Fürstentein is grand, and on one side extremely wild. An ancient castle, as it is called, but which betrays its modern construction, rises from the summit of a steep rock, and, rearing its head above a black forest of fir-trees, appears to great advantage from the house. The proprietor is one of those Silesian nobles, who spend the greatest part of their time on their estates, and who, instead of sinking their importance in capitals, or acting subordinate parts at court, live in a style of grandeur not unlike the English nobility during the summer.

We were now leaving the Giant Mountains, and the country became more-level at every step. After passing through the small town of Freyburgh we arrived at Schweidnitz, a place celebrated for the sieges it has sustained. This town contains many large and handsome houses, but it has not that cleanliness, cheerfulness, and air of independence, which are the result only of trade and manufactures. It is true that Schweidnitz is not totally without trade, and that all kinds of leather, particularly cordovan, are manufactured there. Nor is its population inconsiderable; for as far back as 1788, the number of its inhabitants was 8983, of whom 2865 belonged to the garrison.

About four miles beyond Schweidnitz, we passed close at the foot of the Zobtenberg, the last of those grand and sublime

scenes to which I had recently been accustomed. If it be recollected that the country in which this mountain stands is quite level on three sides, and only a little elevated on the other, it must be admitted that the height of 2424 Paris feet above the level of the sea, assigned to it, is immense. Hence the extraordinary effect which this mountain produces on every side: it appears like a huge giant, because there is nothing near it that can sustain any comparison. The country now gradually dwindled into one extensive plain, here and there intersected by little eminences; and such is the nature of the district all round Breslau.

LETTER XIV.

BRESLAU.—GARVE.—GENERAL SURVEY OF THE CITY.—
 MODEL OF THE GIANT MOUNTAINS.—EXTENT AND PO-
 PULATION OF SILESIA.—PRODUCTIONS.—INHABITANTS.
 —FRANKENSTEIN.—TOWN AND FORTRESS OF SILBER-
 BERG.—GLATZ.—NACHOD.—JAROMIRZ.—THE FORTRESS
 OE PLESS OR JOSEPHSSTADT.—KÖNIGINGRATZ.—CHLU-
 METZ, THE MANSION OF COUNT KINSKY.—KOLIN.

KOLIN, Oct. 10, 1793.

WE arrived at Breslau early on the 3d, and one of my first visits was to our friend Garve. The servant, who is probably not accustomed to see strangers in the company of his master, seemed at a loss whether he should announce me or not. I observed his perplexity, and informed him that I was an old acquaintance of his master, to whom I sent in my name. Though tolerably aware what a melancholy scene I had to expect, yet I was nevertheless shocked, when, as the door opened, Garve exclaimed, “You behold a miserable mortal!” He was in bed, which he had not been able to leave for some time. I had not seen him for upwards of twenty years, and you may easily conceive what an alteration I found in him. I called to his remembrance the more agreeable days of former times, of his residence at Leipzig, and the friends whom he still has in that city; and after the first moments, during which he appeared to be greatly agitated, he recovered that cheerfulness and tranquillity of mind which had never deserted him amidst the cruel sufferings with which he has been afflicted. The conversation soon became lively, and I found that he still takes the warmest interest in all that relates to human society, that he keeps pace with his contemporaries, and is well informed on every subject that has yet excited curiosity in the extensive empire of science. My Northern tour interested him much, and he asked a great number of questions, not like one

who impatiently wishes for the hour of his dissolution, but like a vigorous traveller, who is anxious to collect the observations of others, in order to avail himself of them in his own journey. We conversed a considerable time on various subjects, and I left him with inexpressible sorrow. Garve is one of the few whom I denominate philosophers of life; like Socrates, he has called down philosophy from heaven, and by its aid has improved society. Quitting the barren heights of metaphysical subtilties, he applied philosophy to the purposes of social life. I shall never see him again*!

The exterior of Breslau appeared to me as disagreeable as the smaller towns of Silesia were pleasing. It is a dirty, old, and dull town, in which even the large and elegant structures are obscured with smoke and dirt. The public squares are spacious, and the streets are tolerably wide, which is absolutely necessary, as the houses are three, four, and five stories high, exclusive of the ground-floor. The palace of the Hatzfeld family would make a distinguished figure in any of the capitals of Europe, and some of the other buildings are very respectable. Many of the Catholic churches are handsome, but they are crowded with altars, pictures, gold and paltry decorations. The Cathedral, which is a large splendid edifice, contains a great number of monuments, few of which, as productions of art, are worthy of notice. Among the statues and public works in the streets and square, there is little remarkable, excepting the monument erected by the family of Tauenzien, to the memory of a deceased count of that name, who was governor of Breslau, and commanded during the siege in 1760. In the Chamber of War and Domains, we were shewn a wooden model of the Giant Mountains, by Kahl, who received for it 600 rix-dollars. The workmanship is far better, and executed with much more taste, than the original, which his son shewed us at Steinseifen. By the latest enumeration, Breslau was found to contain about 60,000 inhabitants.

On the morning of the 4th, we left Breslau, and, passing through Domslau and Jordansmühle, arrived at Nimpsch. The country, compared with what we had recently traversed, was by no means interesting, being mostly level, but tolerably well cultivated. We are again approaching more magnificent scenes, and the lofty mountains which separate Glatz from Silesia, already appear in the distance.

Büsching computes the extent of Prussian Silesia and the county of Glatz at 642, but Zöllner, probably from later and better information, fixes it at 685 geographical square miles. Büsching estimates the population in 1755 at 1,162,355, and in

* Garve expired a few weeks afterwards, on the 1st of December, 1798.

1774 at 1,372,754. Zöllner states it from actual enumeration in the year 1791 to have been 1,747,065; and from a subsequent enumeration which I have seen, Silesia in the year 1790 contained 1,884,632 persons, exclusive of the military. This is truly an astonishing increase in the space of 44 years, which moreover include the period of the Seven Years' War.

With respect to the variety of its productions, and the diversity of its scenery, Silesia is a very remarkable country; in the North of Germany there is no province of like extent that is equal to it in this point. Its inhabitants are not less interesting, and are distinguished by their superiority over others under the same latitude. The native of Silesia, at least in those parts which I have visited, appears to me to possess greater vivacity than those of any other country between that Duchy and the North Sea; an imagination which continually impels him, and an activity which tends to the improvement of his social condition. He loves society, and holds in the highest estimation those arts and sciences, whose operation and influence are particularly directed to civil and social life.

We left Nimpsch on the morning of the 6th. Both at that place and at Frankenstein, an insignificant town about nine miles distant from the former, I found large and stately mansions, which are in ruins, but they have a fine situation, and notwithstanding the ravages of time, an imposing appearance. I went through that at Frankenstein, which commands a magnificent prospect of the mountains of Glatz, the town of Silberberg, and the fortress of the same name on the brow of a hill above it.— This fortress, which is partly hewn out of the rock, and has a communication with the town by means of a covered way, is said to be extremely interesting. From its great elevation, the climate is uncommonly cold and severe.

As we approached the small town of Wartha, the mountains of Glatz presented themselves in all their grandeur. Beyond that place they are piled one upon another, and continue increasing in magnitude and height till at length, nine miles beyond Glatz, they terminate in vast perpendicular steeps which seem to preclude any farther progress. The scenery around Wartha is romantic and picturesque. The Hermitage near the town is remarkably pretty, and is not, as in many places, a mere ornament, but is actually inhabited. The town itself is insignificant, but appears to derive considerable advantage from the pilgrimages that are made to it. In the church are suspended a vast quantity of votive offerings. The inhabitants of all this district are zealous Catholics, so that I imagined myself to be in Bohemia or Moravia rather than in the dominions of a Protestant sovereign.

Glatz is situated on a mountain, the upper part of which is

occupied by the citadel, so that it stands considerably higher than the town itself. I walked through the streets in all directions, and found them mostly narrow, and, as may be naturally supposed from the scite of the place, constantly going up and down hill. It contains some good houses, among which the edifice formerly belonging to the Jesuits is very extensive. It is now employed by government for various purposes, and some of the most respectable inhabitants in the town have taken a part of it for clubs, assemblies, and balls.

The citadel of Glatz appears to me to be one of the strongest places I ever saw, great additions and improvements having been made within these few years in the fortifications; but what particularly pleased me was the view of the adjacent country, which one of the towers of the fortress commands. The district of Glatz is populous and well cultivated. The town contains about 8000 inhabitants including the garrison; and the population of the whole country is estimated at 75,000 persons.

We left Glatz early on the 8th, and crossed or passed between the mountains, which at a distance appear inaccessible. The whole country is beautiful and interesting. Our journey this day was only 27 miles, so that we arrived in good time at Nachod, the first place in Bohemia, which, together with the lordship, belongs to the Duke of Courland. The castle, formerly the property of the Prince Piccolomini, has a bold situation on a considerable eminence above the town, which is a mean place.

On the 9th we proceeded from Nachod to Jaromirz, and passed the night at Königingrätz. Though this is the great road from Breslau to Prague, I found it upon the whole very much out of repair till we reached Kolin. Jaromirz and Nachod are both Bohemian towns; for you must know that in this country the towns are divided into Bohemian and German, and it is not a little remarkable, that in these places the respective languages are so exclusively spoken, that the inhabitants of one understand not a word of the language of the other.

We had left behind us the lofty heights of the Giant Mountains, and all those to which we came after leaving Nachod were proportionably low, though the road continually goes up and down hill. The country is not so beautiful as before, but gradually assumes the character of the interior of Bohemia. Still, however, it is very agreeable, and the views from the castle of Count Ferdinand Kinsky of Chlumetz, are truly charming.

Near Jaromirz is situated the fortress of Pless, or as it is also called Josephs-stadt, and which can certainly be intended only against a hostile attack on the part of Prussia. It is a new fortress, and was not completed till the year 1791.

Königingrätz, nine miles from Jaromirz, is the capital of the
KÜTTNER.]

circle and the only town of any importance that I have seen between Breslau and Prague. It has a spacious handsome market-place with piazzas and many very elegant buildings. The fortifications of this place have been greatly enlarged and improved within the last twenty years. Persons who understand the subject assert that it may be considered as impregnable, not so much on account of its works and forts, as its extensive inundations, the impossibility of draining them off, and the excessive difficulty of working in the soil of that country. I am even informed that unprejudiced engineers declare it to be as strong as Luxemburg; but the town has by these means been rendered unhealthy.

The mansion of Count Kinsky of Chlumetz, is of singular architecture, being composed of a rotunda with four square wings, so that the circular building in the middle forms a large hall, out of which four doors conduct to the four wings, each of which has its respective staircase. The interior is not remarkable, and the family, when at this place, resides in a smaller building situated below the former.

From Chlumetz there is a direct road to Prague, but being, like that we had already travelled, very bad, we resolved to go by the way of Kolin.

LETTER XV.

PRAGUE. — GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. — PALACES. — CHURCHES.—THE CATHEDRAL.—THE TEIN -CHURCH. — TYCHO BRAHE.—THE OBSERVATORY.—THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY. — THE PRÆMONSTRATENSIAN CONVENT.— POPULATION OF PRAGUE.— BÖHMISCH-BROT. — DEUTSCH-BROT. — ZNAYM. — VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS OF STYRIA.—APPROACH TO VIENNA.— THE KAHLENBERG.

VIENNA, Oct. 19.

WE arrived on the 11th of October at Prague. This is indeed a fine city, and perhaps next to Berlin and Vienna the handsomest in Germany, for I am inclined, though others may perhaps not be of my opinion, to give it the preference to Dresden. You must not, it is true, criticise the large edifices of Prague by the rigid rules of architecture; but their general appearance has an air of grandeur, which, though in some instances derived entirely from their magnitude, yet produces an impression that causes you to forget their individual defects. The private houses, which may with equal propriety be denominated palaces, that I have this time surveyed with particular

attention, are those of the Princes of Lichtenstein, Lobkowitz, Kinsky, Mausfeld, and Kaunitz; Counts Czernin, Martinitz, Klamm, Kolowrat, Nostiz, Waldstein, and several others whose names I do not recollect; the residences of General Thun and the Grand Duke of Tuscany, the archiepiscopal palace, and some of the offices of government. The lofty situation, the ancient Florentine style, and the rustic grandeur, combine to give the palace of the Prince of Schwarzenberg a striking appearance, which reminds me of the fifteenth and sixteenth century in Italy. The Archduke Charles, whose regular residence is at Prague, does not live in the imperial palace, but has two large houses, bequeathed him by his aunt, the Duchess of Saxe-Teschen, and which are now so connected as to form but one habitation.

Our lacquey is a great admirer of churches; and as it was of little consequence how long we remained at Prague, we followed him into all those into which he chose to conduct us. I have seen from twelve to fifteen, most of which are beautiful in their way; and in this respect I consider Prague as the first city in Germany, as I prefer it even to Vienna. Externally, they do not appear to advantage; but the interior of many exhibits a grand and elegant style. The Cathedral is particularly deserving of notice. It is a fine Gothic building, and would be a magnificent monument if the whole were entire. In the Tein Church I saw the monument of Tycho Brahe, which is nothing more than the figure of a knight of rude sculpture on a tomb-stone. There are many monuments in the same church and in various others, that deserve a minute examination, and some of them contain good pictures. In Prague, upon the whole, there is much to interest the lover of the arts.

Among the public edifices, those which belonged to the Jesuits are worthy of particular attention. They are distinguished by a style of grandeur which I have observed in almost all the structures that belonged to that order. Their three colleges in Prague, would, if contiguous, almost form a small town; that in the old town alone comprising seven spacious courts. Joseph II. founded in it a seminary for 600 young divines with their teachers, servants, &c. Here, likewise, is the Observatory, the great library, and the cabinet of natural productions. The Observatory does not stand in a good situation and has a limited horizon. I saw not many instruments of value or importance. The library occupies a considerable part of the former college, and is one of the most copious and valuable in Europe. I was assured that according to a correct list it contains 130,000 volumes, and that 3000 gulden are annually expended in increasing it. Here I saw a great number of the latest publications of all countries and all religions. I was likewise astonished at the

numerous expensive works with plates; I found not only the most important and celebrated works in archæology, natural history, anatomy, &c. but also those, for which the last ten years have been particularly distinguished, namely, the different picturesque travels, views in India, and the splendid works published in England. A great portion of this library is composed of what was formerly the Kinsky collection. That part which is called the national library, containing about 7000 Bohemian books and tracts, is perfectly unique in its kind. We concluded our amusement with a book of sorcery, taken some years since from a man who was put into prison; and the magistrates, after mature consideration and expressing the utmost abhorrence, sentenced the book to be burned. Some person who possessed more good sense, (I believe the then librarian) conceiving that a book of this description tended to display the spirit of the times, contrived that the affair should be referred to Vienna, whither the book was likewise sent. It afforded Joseph II. much diversion: he kept it for some time, occasionally shewed it in company, and afterwards presented it to the library at Prague. It is a large quarto volume, executed with inconceivable labour. Every thing is circumstantially described in the German language, and the phantoms are drawn and coloured. The letters are almost all Roman, very well written, and the Hebrew ones are particularly beautiful. I looked into it here and there, and found the language rude, ungrammatical, and even barbarous.—The man to whom it belonged was suffered to escape.

The Præmonstratensian convent is on many accounts worth seeing. Its church decorated with beautiful paintings and the most celebrated organ in Bohemia, its considerable cabinet of coins, and its library composed of 50,000 volumes, which are kept in splendid book-cases, in an elegant hall, besides other circumstances, combine to render it the most remarkable convent in Prague, and perhaps in the whole empire. However unworthy of attention the book-cases of a library may in general be, yet these are distinguished in a particular manner for their luxury, and are said to have cost 80,000 florins. They were made for the convent of Bruck, but after its suppression were removed to this place.

In the house of the recently deceased Count Hartiz, I surveyed a select collection in all the departments of natural history and various instruments, particularly for electricity. The Count was the imperial ambassador at the court of Dresden, at the time of the celebrated congress of Pillnitz, and is said to have had a considerable share in the transactions of that period.

The population of this city, the general air of opulence which prevails, the liveliness resulting from both, together with the

gaiety of the inhabitants, render Prague an agreeable place to a stranger for a few days; but for a longer residence, Vienna is certainly to be preferred. In the year 1798 it contained 71,500 inhabitants, including 9000 Jews; but the place was then without garrison, which has since amounted to 8000 men, so that the total population may be computed at about 80,000 persons.

We left Prague on the 14th, and in less than four hours arrived at Böhmisch-Brot, 23 miles, where we passed the night. On the 15th, we went 57 miles to Deutsch-Brot, where we found miserable accommodations. We then proceeded to Iglau, a handsome town in Moravia, and thence to Znaym. On leaving the latter place, the views of the distant country continually become more interesting, and at length grand and magnificent. As often as you come to an eminence you behold a range of mountains whose remote distance and indeterminate extent, announce a chain too lofty to exist in the country in which you imagine you see it. These are the high mountains which form the boundaries of Austria and Styria, and which the traveller has in sight almost all the way to Vienna; but they appear to the best advantage about fifty or sixty miles before he reaches that metropolis.

As you approach Vienna, the mountains near the Danube conceal those in the distance. About nine miles from that city you enter a charming country; here one eminence, in which I recognized the Kahlenberg, is particularly distinguished. No traveller who goes to Vienna, omits seeing it; but I am far from thinking that it deserves the pompous panegyrics bestowed on it by some of my predecessors. On the north side, of which I now had a view, it appears to infinitely greater advantage.

LETTER XVI.

VIENNA.—DORNBACH.—BELVIDERE.—SCHÖNBRUNN.—
THE UNIVERSITY.—THE INSTITUTION CALLED THE
THERESIÄNUM.—THE SCHOOL OF SURGERY.—THE
INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

VIENNA, November, 1798.

STRANGERS who arrive at Vienna in autumn, and intend to pass the winter in that metropolis, should, during the first days, forget the city, and employ every moment of favourable weather in seeing the adjacent country, and the principal country-seats in its vicinity. Winter strips them of their charms; and nature here does not recover her perfect beauty till rather late in the spring. We have accordingly spent most of the time, since our arrival

here, in visiting places which I formerly saw at a more agreeable season of the year.

I have been, among other places, at Dornbach, the residence of Field-Marshal Lascy. The house is in one of the happiest situations I ever met with; and has this peculiarity, that the view, on one side, is as limited, wild, and romantic, as it is open, grand, and rich, on the other; where between wood-covered mountains the eye sees far beyond Vienna, and, pursuing the course of the Danube, discovers in the distance the city of Presburg. The house itself commands a most magnificent view of Vienna, which appears in a valley between two mountains, of which one is entirely clothed with wood, and the other is principally composed of naked rocks. As these mountains intercept the view, so that, in the back ground, the eye discovers nothing but the city: it is not diverted by any other object; and Vienna forms a spectacle truly magnificent and picturesque.

Another charming view of the city is that from the palace of Belvedere, once the summer residence of Prince Eugene, but now containing the imperial collections of paintings. The latter commonly occupy so much of the visitor's attention, as to prevent his enjoying the rich, sublime, and extremely beautiful views which this edifice commands. From its elevated situation, its terraces, and the excellent order in which the walks are kept, they are always dry, and the place besides possesses the advantage of a pure air.

At Schönbrunn, the Emperor's principal summer-residence, about four miles from the city, I admired the fine collection of foreign plants, and particularly their large size. Instead of rearing them from seed, Joseph II. procured the trees and plants themselves, which makes a great difference in their growth; and I must acknowledge, that I have no where seen any thing of the kind that can be compared to it. In the palace we found the same simplicity that prevails in all that belongs to the reigning family of the house of Austria. It contains many noble and elegant apartments, but yet they do not bespeak the chief summer-residence of the Emperor of Germany.

I shall now proceed to my observations on different objects in the city; which we had time to inspect before the commencement of winter.

The building commonly called the University, is one of the most distinguished in Vienna, and was erected during the reign of Francis I. It would be a great embellishment to the city, if it stood in a part where it could be seen to better advantage. It contains the observatory, several lecture-rooms, and a large hall, that is employed for public meetings. The latter is very spacious; it occupies two stories, and is ornamented with a painted

ceiling, and a number of statues. The library belonging to the University is said to be pretty considerable; but it is not much frequented, because that of the Emperor, which is constantly open to the public, is not only much more copious and complete, but is much more convenient for use. The extensive collection of objects in natural history is not comprehended in the great building of the University, but is placed in another, not far distant, that formerly belonged to the Jesuits. It is well arranged, and has sufficient room, which is a great advantage to collections of this kind. In the year 1796 the University of Vienna made thirty-two doctors of physic, twenty-six of laws, five of philosophy, and not one of divinity.

The Theresianum is an academical institution; which in splendour and magnitude exceeds every thing of the kind that I am acquainted with. It was originally a summer-palace and garden of Charles VI. who died there. His daughter converted it into a seminary for the children of the nobility; it was suppressed by Joseph II. and re-established two years ago by the present Emperor. Many travellers have already found fault with the nature and plan of this institution, and have regarded the Theresianum as a seminary of aristocracy; and by many enlightened and patriotic inhabitants of Vienna, it is viewed in the same light. The pupils are here separated, from infancy, from the rest of the world, that they may receive an education which, at every step, announces to them that they are beings of a higher order. On viewing the interior of the institution, the spectator is astonished at the elegant and extensive apartments of the abbot or prelate, who has the inspection of the whole; the vast and splendid halls in which the pupils dine, play at billiards, receive company, and occasionally give balls; the stables, which contain forty-six horses, and room for a greater number; the large riding-school, the spacious garden, the copious library, and the magnificent lecture-rooms. These young gentlemen daily have six dishes for dinner. Many of them will, probably, in the course of their future lives, be obliged to put up with less, and will here lay the foundation of discontent with their circumstances and situations, that will embitter the remainder of their days. Many a future officer will here make a bad preparation for the want and the hardships which are so often inseparable from a military life. The principal object of this institution is, to afford, gratuitously, board, lodging, and instruction, to the children of poverty; but no provision is made for their clothing, and various other articles, which their friends are obliged to find. It is not, however, exclusively intended for the poor, but likewise for a respectable public academical institution for the rich, who, consequently, are expected to pay for those advantages which the others enjoy free of expence. The

total number of pupils is at present 192 ; but that of the persons belonging to the institution amounts to 400 ; so that there are 208 persons to educate, instruct, and attend 192 children. The latter are admitted at the age of six, or even five years, and they remain till they have finished their studies, that is, till their 18th or 19th year, according to their respective capacities and progress. The Theresianum is not a military institution, each youth being there educated for the situation for which he is intended. The pupils in general are never left by themselves, they are at all times obliged to conduct themselves like gentlemen, and are never suffered to indulge, free from restraint, in those childish sports and innocent diversions which constitute the delight of boyhood. In all the corridors, I observed attendants, and they appear to be watched in the strictest manner. This indeed is a method of preventing the extravagancies which boys in the English schools sometimes commit : but it is the liberty they enjoy that gives the latter that independence and firmness of character, which distinguish the English nation, and which it is impossible that persons educated in this place should possess.

The school of surgery is the first institution of the kind that I am acquainted with in Europe ; and the edifice belonging to it is one of the handsomest buildings in Vienna.

The same attention continues to be paid to the maintenance of the institution for the deaf and dumb. I once saw that at Paris, during the life-time of the Abbé de l'Épée, and I know not whether, upon the whole, they may not have made greater progress in certain points at Vienna. They take more pains here to teach the pupils to speak. Their pronunciation has something extremely disgusting to the ear. They certainly acquit themselves better than those I heard speak at Paris ; but even those who are most perfect, are not always intelligible to me, and excite the most disagreeable sensations. Tone is to them exactly what colour is to the blind, they have no idea of it ; none of them has in his pronunciation what is called modulation, and the last word of a period has the same tone as the first. He learns to pause for a longer or a shorter time, at the different stops, but not to distinguish them by the inflection of his tone, or by raising or lowering his voice. The pupils are taught reading, writing, accounts, drawing, &c. and I am likewise informed, that most of them learn to speak as much as is necessary to make themselves understood in the manufactories and workshops in which they are afterwards employed. In the manufacture of porcelain, in particular, they are very useful.—The charges of the institution are defrayed by the Emperor.

 LETTER XIX.

POPULATION OF VIENNA.—STATISTICAL FACTS RELATIVE TO THE AUSTRIAN DOMINIONS.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AT VIENNA.—INSTITUTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF FIRES.—ANECDOTE OF JOSEPH II.—MARIA THERESA.—REFORMS OF JOSEPH II.—BARON VON QUARIN.—LEOPOLD II.—THE PRESENT EMPEROR AND EMPRESS.

VIENNA, *December* 1798.

NOTHING has hitherto been more uncertain than the population of Vienna, according to the statements of different authors. If you ask the question of a native of the city, he generally mentions the round number of 300,000. Most statements, however, agree in representing it to be about 270,000; though some writers maintain, and endeavour to prove, that the city cannot contain much more than 200,000 persons. From different data which I have myself collected, I know that the number must be much greater. In order to obtain some decisive information on the subject, I endeavoured to procure the results of the actual enumerations made by government for a considerable number of years. These I received from a person of consequence; and I find that in the year 1794 Vienna contained 221,775 natives, and 11,090 foreigners; making a total of 232,865 persons. Notwithstanding all my exertions, I was unable to procure the amount of the subsequent years; but the latest Picture of Vienna states the number in 1795 to be 231,105. The above calculations do not include the garrison, the number of which is extremely variable. In my preceding visit, in the summer of 1794, it did not amount to 1000 men; in time of peace its number is commonly estimated at 10,000; but if the large number of 30,000 be assigned for the wives, children, servants, &c. of all the persons composing it, the total population for the year 1795 will be 261,105. By the enumeration of 1796 the number of houses in the city was found to be 1397, and in the suburbs 5102; making together 6,499. The mortality in Vienna exceeds that of any other place in Europe, that I am acquainted with. It is commonly reckoned that one out of twenty dies annually; but I have reason to think that the proportion of deaths is still greater.

The following data concerning the Austrian dominions in general, I obtained from different statesmen and persons connected with the government. The present population of the whole mo-

narchy, including the newly-acquired provinces, is estimated at twenty-three millions. The loss and gain of territory sustained during the war has not much diminished the number of its subjects, and those who admit a loss, calculate it, at the highest, at 600,000 persons. The Venetian States added 1,800,000 ; and Dalmatia 200,000 souls.

The number of inhabitants in Galicia is augmented by upwards of half a million since its subjection to the Austrian sceptre. In 1776 that country contained 2,580,796 souls ; in 1780 their number was 2,797,119 ; and it is now said to exceed 3,200,000. Notwithstanding this increase, Austria has, during that period, been engaged in three wars, two of which have been very destructive ; and towards which Galicia, like the other provinces, was obliged to furnish its quota.

I shall not enter into a description of the many large and elegant buildings in Vienna, devoted to the reception and treatment of the poor, the sick, lying-in-women, foundlings, lunatics, &c. The following particulars, extracted from the latest Picture of this metropolis, will serve to give some idea of the extent of those institutions.—In December, 1795, the General Infirmary contained 1130 patients. In the course of the year following, 11,860 persons were admitted, and out of these 12,990 patients, 1910 died.—Leopold II. divided the suburbs into eight circuits ; in each of which he appointed a physician, surgeon, and midwife, with salaries, to relieve those who are unable to pay for medical assistance. In 1795 this institution relieved 19,820 patients, of whom 464 died, and 623 were removed to the General Infirmary. In 1796 a similar regulation was introduced into the city itself.—In December 1795, there remained in the Lying-in and Foundling Hospital 95 women ; and in the following year 1904 were admitted. Of these united numbers 111 died ; consequently, 1 in 18, which is not much more than the ordinary proportion of the mortality for all Vienna. In December, 1795, eighteen children remained in this institution ; and 1849 were born there in 1796. In the Lunatic Hospital, there remained, in December, 1795, 261 lunatics ; of whom 156 were men, and 105 women. In the following year 190 persons were admitted, and 122 dismissed. Besides the above, there are three other hospitals, and one for Jews, exclusive of the extensive military hospital for the soldiers. The Jewish Hospital was erected in 1793 ; it is indisputably the most cleanly, and that in which the patients receive the best attendance.

The institutions for the prevention of fires are an honour to the police of this city. Instances illustrative of the effects of any institution on the public opinion are frequently more satisfactory than the most circumstantial descriptions. Being once in

a house in the Carinthian-street, which is very narrow, a great noise was suddenly raised in the street, about seven in the evening. "What's the matter?" exclaimed the strangers who were in the company. "Only a fire," replied the natives, with the utmost composure. We were soon informed that it was in the fourth house from us; but there was not an individual in the family but manifested the same indifference as if it had been several miles off. I likewise learned, that there exists not an instance of a house having been burned down in the city; and that even if a fire breaks out in an upper story, the inhabitants never think of removing the effects from those below it. In cases of fire, whether in the city or suburbs, the present Emperor, like his uncle Joseph, always repairs to the spot, and for this purpose a horse is kept ready-saddled both night and day.

On the above occasion, a general in the imperial service related the following anecdote of Joseph's courage, or, as some may call it, temerity. During a great fire at Semlin, that prince was present, and was directing the operations for extinguishing it. A stranger came and informed an officer, who now holds the rank of general, that the next house to that in which the fire raged with the greatest violence, and opposite to which Joseph had placed himself, was the dwelling of an Armenian merchant, who dealt largely in smuggled gun-powder, and that at the moment he had in his house fifty-two casks of that combustible. The officer instantly acquainted the emperor with this intelligence, and solicited his majesty to retire. Joseph, with great composure, enquired from whom he had received the information; and upon the confirmation of the report, he ordered the affair to be investigated, without stirring from the spot during the whole time. The officer, instead of fifty-two casks, found five tons of powder; the Emperor gave directions for their removal, and was, with difficulty, prevailed upon to quit the spot.

If any prince has proved what powerful effects may be produced by a sovereign on his subjects, and particularly the inhabitants of the metropolis, it is Joseph II. Many of his reforms were of such a nature, that their effects could not be perceived till after his death. He gave the public mind a bias, in which it continued long after his decease; and probably that prince would himself be filled with astonishment at many things, could he again revisit Vienna.

During the last years of the life of the empress Maria Theresa, many wise ordinances, and many wholesome alterations were made. Respecting the government of that princess, very erroneous ideas prevail in the North of Germany; and her rigid principles in matters of religion have been severely censured. This cause may probably have retarded the progress of information

among the people ; but those are grossly mistaken who consider her as a woman who suffered herself to be ruled by monks and priests. She well knew how to maintain her authority over these classes of men, notwithstanding the reverence she paid them ; and some one has very justly described her conduct, by saying, “ that she kissed the feet of the priests, in order to tie their hands.” Much, however, yet remained to be done, that could not be expected of a person already advanced in years. The customs and prejudices of early life impose upon us a thousand shackles, which our youthful successors sometimes suddenly shake off. She was, besides, well aware that her subjects were not ripe for many innovations, and this point her successor frequently overlooked.

Joseph advanced with rapid strides in his reformation of religion. To many things the people must become accustomed by degrees ; otherwise it only irritates and drives them into open opposition. Such was the case with his ordinance, relative to burials, which was calculated for frigid philosophers, but not for the multitude. The prohibition of interment in coffins occasioned so many disturbances, that in 1785 he was obliged to repeal it. A remarkable letter of his on this subject is preserved, in which he says, “ that he adopted this measure from the best motives, in order to restrain the extravagant luxury frequently displayed at funerals ; to render the expence of interment less oppressive to the poor ; and to provide a partial remedy for the scarcity and dearness of wood, particularly at Vienna. But as it had given his subjects offence, and they manifested greater discontent with that edict than any others he had issued, he would repeal it.” On the same principle he, doubtless, tolerated many religious customs and institutions, which to a Protestant, who has never lived among Catholics, must appear very striking.

Joseph likewise introduced many improvements and alterations of a civil nature, from which Vienna still derives great advantage. The general embellishment of the town, that excellent institution, the school of surgery, the newly-erected hospitals for the poor and the sick, together with the improvements made in those already established, and many other things of a similar nature, still remain as monuments of his political ability.

During his last illness, Joseph, having been a considerable time under the hands of his physicians, who had always given him hopes of his recovery, sent for Baron von Quarin. This celebrated physician is reported to be infallible in his decisions on life and death ; at least it is pretended, that no person can recollect an instance in which he was ever mistaken in his opinions on this subject. “ A private person,” said the Monarch on his arrival, “ may be ready to die at any time ; but for an

emperor some preparation is necessary. I expect you to acquaint me with your opinion of my situation." Quarin, after a long and thorough examination, told him, without reserve, that he could not possibly recover. Joseph thanked him for his candour; and asked him how long he thought he might still live. The physician replied, that persons in his situation might be snatched away between one day and another, but that he could scarcely survive a fortnight at the utmost. The emperor shook hands with him, and, after repeating his thanks, he dismissed him. When he afterwards felt his dissolution approaching, he sent the physician a patent, by which he was created a Baron, and a present of 10,000 gulden (upwards of 1000*l*.) together with a note in his own hand-writing, expressive of his gratitude for the sincerity and candour with which he had treated him. The monarch then awaited his death with that fortitude and composure by which his mother and his grandfather Charles VI. had been distinguished.

Previous to his disease, he went through all the ceremonies of the catholic religion, and received extreme unction. I enquired whether he had done this merely for the sake of example and decorum, or out of internal conviction; and his physician confirmed what I had frequently heard before, namely, that Joseph II. was a Catholic Christian, and not a Deist. Baron Quarin denies that the emperor had exhausted his constitution by excesses, as was at first reported; and asserts, that a fall from his horse was the cause that principally contributed to his death.

Of the decisive tone in which Baron von Quarin speaks, in certain cases, I myself witnessed sometime since a striking instance, during the illness of the young archduchess, lately deceased. Being sent for, he went to see her, and immediately declared that he had been called too late. In the mean time the other physicians continued to attend her; and as frequent enquiries were made in company concerning her health, a report was propagated that she was better. Nevertheless, Quarin, wherever he went, said, without reserve, "She must die." As I was frequently in his company, I was not a little struck with his repeated expression of "She must die." About ten days after he had pronounced this opinion, she expired.

Joseph died in 1790, and left many designs unfinished. Much that he had done was merely by way of experiment, and could only be completed and brought to maturity by a man like himself.

Leopold was totally incapable of overlooking the vast extent of the Austrian monarchy. He came with a little mind from the government of a little country; and with feeble hand annulled the projects and regulations of his predecessor, whose spirit he was unable to comprehend. He was an excellent Grand Duke

of Tuscany; and that country is indebted to him for many things, by which it is distinguished from the other Italian States. In the wide-extended rule of the Austrian monarchy, on whose throne fate had placed him at the most unfavourable period, he soon lost all the celebrity he had before acquired. It was he, however, who granted to the Hungarians the celebrated edict relative to religion, which even goes farther than that of his predecessor, and removes all the distinctions which existed in Hungary on account of the difference of religious opinions. It was a great idea, and worthy of a citizen of the world; but perhaps this edict is one of the measures of Leopold's administration, with which the present government is not perfectly satisfied.

The reigning monarch treads, on the whole, in Joseph's footsteps, whom he appears in various respects to have taken for his model. He was, in some measure, the pupil of Joseph; and was more intimately acquainted with his principles and projects than his father Leopold. But since his accession to the government, the times have greatly altered, and the spirit of the cabinet of Vienna has been obliged to change with them.

I have already mentioned the simplicity that prevails in every thing belonging to the reigning family of Austria. It was first introduced by Joseph II. who carried it to that degree in which it is retained by the present emperor. Francis II. is not of opinion that the imperial dignity consists in being surrounded with chamberlains, life-guards, and attendants. He scarcely ever appears in public but alone with the empress. I was once standing on the rampart, reading an inscription on a house, when a man in a gray surtout passed by with a female very simply dressed. I did not observe them, when my companion, a foreigner, asked: "Who can they be? Every person that meets them takes off his hat." I followed them, and found that it was the emperor and empress. It is impossible to return the salutations he receives with greater politeness; and as every one who knows him takes off his hat, I have seen him proceed more than ten paces together on the rampart bare-headed. When he goes to the theatre in the city, no notice whatever is taken of him; but he lately appeared at one of the smaller theatres in the suburbs, and the audience clapped. I looked round; all remained seated, and the clapping continued. At length I observed a man, very simply dressed, and a female, who were making low bows. Some of the audience conceiving that the clapping lasted too long, because it hindered the performance, hissed, and the house was soon quiet. One party intended no offence, and the other was not obstinate. "What a difference," said I to my neighbour, "between Vienna and London!" There this opposition would excite such a ferment in the house, that tranquillity would not be

restored perhaps for a quarter of an hour. The clappers would continue with the greater violence, because they were desired to be silent, and the hissing would become louder in the same proportion. The galleries would resound with the cries of *Throw him over, throw him over!* the hissing would be considered as an affront to the Royal Family; orange-peel would fly about in all directions; and a roar of *Silence!* would thunder amid the cry of *Throw him over!*

The princes of the house of Austria have been in general cherished by their people, and the present sovereign is beloved by them in a very high degree. His extreme simplicity, his affable demeanour, his unostentatious appearance on ordinary occasions, the confidence with which he walks, unattended, among his people, the facility with which every one can obtain access to his person, his benevolence in admitting his subjects to a participation in all his gardens, and even in his palaces, his excellent moral character and conjugal virtues, his decided aversion to capital punishments*, his great frugality in all that relates to himself and his household, are qualities which cannot fail to produce an effect on a people possessing such a high degree of good-nature as the Austrians. He is extremely beloved; and his enemies are those of his people. The enmity of the inhabitants of Vienna to the French, and even to the Prussians, is very great.

LETTER XX.

CHARACTER OF THE INHABITANTS OF VIENNA.—OF THE FAIR SEX.—LUXURY OF VIENNA.—HOUSES OF THE NOBILITY.—LUXURY OF THE TABLE.—COMPARISON WITH OTHER PLACES.—THE INHABITANTS OF VIENNA NOT ADDICTED TO DRINKING.—OBSERVATIONS ON THE GENERAL CHARACTER OF WHOLE NATIONS.

VIENNA, April 1799.

SINCERITY, gaiety, and good-humour, mingled with a certain degree of narrow prejudice and rudeness, appear to me to be the characteristics of the inhabitants of Vienna. The love of pleasure and the enjoyments of sense seem to be greater among the middle and lower classes than in any other place; and they are equally distinguished for their attachment to the reigning family, and their ready submission to the measures of the government.

* I am informed, that not a single criminal has been executed during his reign. It is not by any means my intention to vindicate this disinclination to capital punishments, as a principle, but I merely mention it as an historical fact.

The females of the middling ranks are, in my opinion, much more agreeable company than the men; their manners are more easy, and their address more engaging. In society they have more of what is called conversation than their husbands and brothers. They are lively, agreeable, unaffected, and entertaining. Besides French, which is spoken by almost all women of education, many understand English, and some speak that language with great accuracy. Among the men it is likewise cultivated; and some families of rank possess considerable libraries of English books. The large, handsome shop of Degen, the bookseller, proves that English works are in great request.

Music is likewise much cultivated by both sexes; and there are female performers, both vocal and instrumental, who, if they were of the profession, would be placed in the highest rank. It may, I think, with justice be asserted, that the females of Vienna are not exceeded in beauty by any in Europe. Their features are perhaps less expressive, but most of them have a fair and fresh complexion, a handsome bosom, and a good figure. Some, even of the younger part, have the same fault as the females of Hamburgh, but in a less degree; I mean, that they are too corpulent.

The luxury of Vienna is very great, when compared with that of some other European capitals. It is not equal indeed to the luxury of London, but far exceeds that of Rome or Naples, Berlin, Copenhagen, Stockholm, &c. The number of families that spend annually 100,000 gulden* and upwards, is very considerable. There are many whose income amounts to 200,000 and upwards; till you at length come to the Princes of Schwarzenberg, Esterhazy, and Lichtenstein. The yearly revenues of the latter are stated by many to be 900,000 gulden, and by some they are rated still higher. From 100,000 downwards you find an uninterrupted progression; and even in the lowest classes there are few individuals whose circumstances are completely wretched. It is, indeed, a peculiar characteristic of this city, that with all its wealth, luxury, and magnificence, you meet with none of that disgraceful penury which is displayed in such odious forms at London and Paris, and still more at Rome, Genoa, and Venice. At Vienna the luxury of the great, the opulence of the second class, and the easy circumstances of the middling ranks, enable the lowest orders to obtain a tolerable subsistence.

Every country has its peculiar kind of luxury and ways of expending money. The Englishman lives in the country in all the splendour of an independent prince, and spends vast sums in horses, dogs, and every thing connected with the sports of the

* A gulden is about two shillings sterling.

chace and the turf; while his establishment in town is comparatively very small. On the contrary, the most distinguished families at Vienna maintain very expensive houses and establishments in the metropolis; and many a nobleman possesses mansions both at Prague and Vienna, which in London would be sufficient for half a dozen dukes.

One of the greatest articles of luxury at Vienna is indisputably the table; and it is the more important as it extends to the lower orders of the people. Without attempting to deny that the inhabitants of Vienna go to a great expence in this particular, I am convinced that the matter has been unreasonably exaggerated, that great injustice has been done them by those who have stigmatized them with the character of epicures and gluttons. I really think that at Vienna the higher classes are not greater eaters than persons of the same rank in other towns.—In England and Ireland, and here and there in Germany, I have sat from two to three hours at dinner; at Vienna, never more than an hour and a half, and seldom so long. The usual time of dinner in the great houses is about half past three, or a quarter of an hour later, and the company generally rise from table before five.—The wine is not placed on the table during dinner: in some of the first houses I found only Austrian and Hungarian, and very few foreign, wines.

I however believe that a proportionably greater quantity of animal food is consumed at Vienna than in London. “Then, you will exclaim, the matter is clear enough. What immoderate appetites must the inhabitants of Vienna have to devour more animal food than the English, who are universally reckoned to consume a greater quantity than any other nation in the world!”—The conclusion is by no means just, however appearances may be on your side. If 250,000 Viennese consume more animal food than 250,000 Londoners, it does not follow that any one of the former eats a greater, or even so great a quantity as many of the latter. A single view of the wretchedness which appears in London by the side of the greatest opulence, will explain the matter at once. At Vienna there is little of this indigence; and as I have already observed, I know no capital where there is less. The number of inhabitants of Vienna, who have not at least one meal of animal food in a day, is very small indeed; but in London there are thousands who frequently can neither purchase butcher’s meat nor any thing else. If, therefore, more animal food is consumed at Vienna than by the same number of persons in London, it is not because the inhabitants of the former metropolis are individually greater eaters, but because in the latter there are many, very many who eat none at all.

Whatever may be the proportion in eating between the in-

habitants of Vienna and other places, so much is certain, that they do not drink in the same degree that they eat. This observation likewise applies to the lower classes. In an opulent place, where wine may be had for less than twelve kreuzers (about 5d.) a bottle, it might be supposed that the common people would be frequently intoxicated, as in Switzerland, Alsace, and in other wine-countries; but I can assure you, that a drunken man is a rare phenomenon at Vienna.

Permit me to close my observations on Vienna with a few words on the character of whole nations, as it is commonly delineated in other countries. The observations I have made in the countries themselves, through which I have travelled, as well as on individuals from countries I never visited, in general belie the characters of those nations commonly ascribed to them in books and in conversation. Thus, for example, in the Spaniards with whom I have been acquainted, I never could find the gravity and stiffness by which that nation is generally supposed to be distinguished. In the Frenchman, I have seldom discovered that winning amiableness of disposition, and the high degree of politeness and delicacy inseparable from it, which are so universally ascribed to him. I never observed that in his own country the Englishman was that melancholy, reserved, and gloomy being, for which he is proverbial. The German is by no means the drunkard, or the clownish, uncivilized brute, that in many countries he is still described to be. In the same manner I have found many things at Vienna very different from the opinion commonly entertained of them in other parts. Am I to suppose that all the individuals with whom I was acquainted, were exceptions, and that the observations of so many years are false? or may it not rather be asserted, that the characters of whole nations, as delineated in early works, from which probably they have got into every one's mouth, are incorrect? It is much easier to collect ideas of men and things from books than from real life; and it is inconceivable how ideas once adopted continue to be propagated for successive ages.

LETTER XXI.

WIENERISCH NEUSTADT.--THE MURZTHAL.--POPULATION OF STYRIA, CARINTHIA, AND CARNIOLA.—GRÄTZ.—LEOBEN.—GARDEN IN WHICH THE PEACE BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND FRANCE WAS CONCLUDED.—ATROCITIES OF THE FRENCH.—INHABITANTS OF STYRIA.—KLAGENFURT.—OF WENS AND IDIOTS.

KLAGENFURT, *May 2.*

THE road from Vienna to Bruck at first traverses an extensive and well-cultivated plain, to the right of which the travel-

ler constantly has in sight the mountains, which commence a short distance from Vienna, and at length join the lofty ranges that divide Austria and Styria. They form a striking contrast with the charming, fertile plain; and are embellished by a great number of villages, situated at their foot.

Wienerisch Neustadt, about twenty-eight miles from Vienna, is a very pretty small place, containing about five thousand inhabitants. I know of no provincial town in Germany whose exterior promises so much. Its general cleanliness, a great number of handsome houses, a large market-place, a spacious castle, and various other objects, excite the attention of the traveller.

At Murzzuschlag commences the celebrated valley known by the name of the Murzthal, which is nearly thirty miles in length. It has its name from the river Mur, by which it is traversed, and is celebrated for its beauty, and the opulence of the inhabitants. For my part, I cannot see why this valley should be preferred to many others that I observed between Bruck and Grätz. The whole valley, or rather all the vallies between those two places, a distance of about thirty-two miles, appeared to me to equal, if not to exceed it, in beauty. The whole tract from Wienerisch Neustadt is a charming country; and considering its length, I know of none in Europe that can bear a comparison with it.

In some Statistical Tables the population of Grätz is stated at forty thousand souls; but this number is evidently exaggerated. I was informed on the spot that it contained from thirty-two to 35,000 inhabitants; and even this number, at least the last, appears to me to be too high. An annual enumeration takes place, but the results are never suffered to be generally known. It is still more difficult to procure statements of the population of whole provinces. I, however, procured one of Styria, Carinthia, and Carniola, according to the enumeration of the year 1793.

| | | Inhabitants. | Total. |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| Styria | { Circle of Grätz | 296,424 } | 829,229 |
| | { ————Judenburg | 98,545 } | |
| | { ————Prug, or Bruck | 73,156 } | |
| | { ————Marburg | 186,099 } | |
| Carinthia | { ————Zilly | 175,005 } | 297,383 |
| | { ————Clagenfurt | 177,477 } | |
| Carniola | { ————Villach | 119,907 } | 419,411 |
| | { ————Leibach | 147,247 } | |
| | { ————Neustädtl | 155,222 } | |
| | { ————Adelsberg | 117,942 } | |

 1,546,024.

The ancient and original town of Grätz, which is enclosed by walls, ditches, and some fortified works, is very small; but the suburbs are large, and are still increasing. They lie scattered around, resembling distant villages, being intermingled with gardens and vineyards. Not far from the town are actually situated some handsome villages, and the intermediate space is occupied by country-houses, large and small farm-houses, and detached cottages, so that the whole forms a highly pleasing and animated scene, and not only occupies a plain of about eighteen square miles, but likewise incroaches upon the neighbouring hills. The latter are of moderate height, and are all partly covered with wood, and partly occupied by fields, vineyards, and meadows, up to their very summits. The citadel, which affords the best view of this charming prospect, is situated within the town, on a very steep hill, which may be about six or seven hundred feet above the level of the river. As a fortified place, it is said to have once possessed considerable strength, but it is now entirely neglected, so that two years ago, on the approach of the French, the government resolved to make no resistance at this place.—Grätz is not the handsome town, which, from the descriptions of others, I expected to find, though it contains a number of good houses, almost all of which are of stone. Among these are the residence of Counts Sauran, Loibel, Wernbrand, the arsenal, the house of the States, and some other edifices. The house in which Buonaparte resided, and which is shewn as a curiosity, is likewise very spacious; the castle, formerly the residence of the Dukes of Styria, is now the dwelling of the governor, and the seat of the Regency. The Assembly-room and the Theatre, which are both under one roof, form an extensive building. Grätz likewise contains the Mausoleum in which Ferdinand II. and his consort are interred. The architecture of this edifice is not in the best style, and internally it is richly ornamented with sculpture. This place is the see of a bishop, who commonly resides there eight months in the year. The present prelate is said to distribute among the poor a full third of his revenues, amounting from twenty-six to twenty-eight thousand gulden.

Leoben is a small town, with some tolerable good houses, and a handsome square or market-place. I here went to see the garden in which two years since peace was concluded between Austria and France. It belongs to a Mr. Von Eckenwald, is agreeably situated, and the house commands a magnificent prospect. A single room occupies the whole upper part of this house; and it was in this apartment that

the Generals Meerveld, Buonaparte, and the Marquis St. Gallo daily met, to treat about the terms. Buonaparte resided about two miles from the town, at Göss, formerly a Benedictine convent, but suppressed, and given to the new Bishop of Leoben, appointed by Joseph II. for his residence. In memory of the peace the proprietor has erected, in the middle of the garden, a monument of variegated marble, on which stands a Genius of white marble, holding an olive-branch of metal gilt in his right hand, and a trumpet in his left. Each of the four sides contains an inscription.

The post-master of Leoben, of whom I asked several questions concerning the French, complained bitterly of them, and calculated the loss they had occasioned him in 19 days, in horses, hay, oats, &c. at 4000 gulden. Three females died under the hands of their brutal ravishers; and it is not a little extraordinary, that the priest refused them the rites of christian burial, and they were interred by the public executioner.—I never heard so much of this species of atrocity as at this place. I was told of a woman who escaped with her life, though she had been abused by thirty men; a violence which human nature could scarcely be thought capable of supporting. Weary of their oppressions and enormities, the peasants collected and murdered all the French wherever they were able to overpower them. They then plundered and buried them on the spot. Many were thrown into the river Mur, and not less than 200 dead bodies are said to have been carried away by its waves.

At Bruck, Grätz, Judenburg, and in other places in Styria, I have frequently turned the conversation to the period of which I am writing; and I have every where observed that the people were extremely dissatisfied with the government for having forbidden the country-people to make any opposition to the French; indeed this is the only complaint against the government that I have heard in this country. Some of the men still spoke of it with indignant warmth; and confidently maintained that very few of the French would have escaped out of the country if the people, a hardy race of mountaineers, had been suffered to defend themselves. It is two years since these events occurred, and they are still the subject of general conversation. I am highly diverted by the different statements of the numbers of the enemy. In one place I was told that they had forty thousand men; and at Judenburg the French forces were stated at eighty thousand. It is, however, well known, that Buonaparte's army was at that time very small; and I am still of opinion, that between Bruck and Vienna it might have been totally anni-

hilated, if the imperial cabinet had not thought proper to agree to the preliminaries of Leoben, and afterwards to the treaty of Campo Formio. It is clear that, while they were at Grätz, they lived entirely at the expence of the inhabitants. Almost every one speaks well of Buonaparte himself; but a general in chief, like a sovereign, needs to do very little to render himself beloved. In the execution of his orders he never appears in person, and when he does show himself, it frequently is in the character of the avenger of the injured citizen against the violence of the soldiery.—He speaks German, and well enough to render himself intelligible to the inn-keepers of Upper Styria, as several of them informed me.

The race of inhabitants in the whole province of Upper Styria appears to me to be short and uncommonly robust. This peculiarity is very striking in the females, who are uncommonly short and broad, and greatly resemble the Welsh, particularly those of the most mountainous parts of North Wales. As it was Sunday, I had an opportunity of seeing great numbers of them, but among all the females I could not discover a single handsome face; and in this respect they differ much from the Welsh, who at any rate have full cheeks and a ruddy complexion. The expression of the countenances of the Styrians is nothing less than intelligent, and their faces are mostly of a brown yellow, and what the English call *weather-beaten*. The colour of their clothes is in general brown; and their hats are so large that it cannot be the sun that gives them such a complexion. A more devout people I never saw. I met some hundreds of them, almost all of whom walked with folded hands, and their beads on their sleeves. The men in general had their hats under their arms, and seemed as they passed to be constantly engaged in prayer. Wherever there was a niche containing an image of Christ, or the Blessed Virgin, or of some saint, and they are pretty numerous, I found several persons kneeling and praying. On all sides I continually heard the salutation “Blessed be Jesus Christ!” to which the invariable reply was—“To all eternity.” If you would salute these people, you must do it in their own way; for if you wish them a good morning, a good day, or a good evening, they make you no answer. They are unused to salutations, and being embarrassed how to answer them, they give no reply at all.

From Bruck to Judenburg we travelled on one of the principal high roads of Austria, all of which are well constructed; but this is not in very good repair till near the confines of Carinthia. Early on the morning of the 29th we left Judenburg, and continued ascending till we arrived at Unz-

markt, along the charming banks of the Mur, which even here is not a contemptible river. About an hour after we had left Unzmarkt, we reached the highest point of the road from Upper Styria to Carinthia, where we found every thing still clothed in the garb of winter. The road now descends rapidly, and you arrive on the frontiers of Carinthia, where you find a milder climate, a luxuriant vegetation, and charming scenery.

Friesach is a small town; which, together with a considerable district of this part of Carinthia, belongs to the bishopric of Salzburg. At the distance of fourteen miles is situated St. Veit, a pretty town, with handsome houses, and a fine spacious market-place. In the latter is a large and elegant monument, decorated with a great number of figures, and, as the Latin inscription says, erected in memory of the plague of 1715. Here is likewise a fine fountain; the water falls into a basin of a good form, hewn out of a single block of white marble, and which, according to Busching, is five fathoms in circumference; and I believe him to be correct. It is said to be a Roman antiquity.

About half way between St. Veit and Klagenfurt we passed over a swampy tract, called the Saaler Moss. If this was the scite of the ancient Tiburnia, as some have asserted, it was certainly superior to that of Klagenfurt. Busching says that on this plain there is still to be seen ruins of an ancient town; as far as my eye could reach, I could not, however, discover the slightest traces of any, nor had those of whom I enquired ever heard, even by tradition, of their existence.

Klagenfurt is a large and a pleasing town, though it cannot be called handsome. It contains many large buildings and spacious squares, but it has much that gives rather a mean appearance. Next to Vienna and Grätz it is one of the principal places in the circle of Austria; and is the residence of the Princes of Porzia and Rozenberg, and a great number of Counts and inferior nobility. The streets are spacious, and intersect each other at right angles; and the public monuments, statues, and fountains, are of large dimensions. When surveyed at a distance these serve to give the place an appearance of dignity and importance, but on a more minute examination you find very little that does honour to the arts. What appears to me the most ludicrous is an enormous statue of Maria Theresa, in a very rich and stiff dress, with Fame hovering over her. As both are of lead it was rather a difficult task to make the latter support herself in the air on her non-elastic pinions. It would have been indecorous for Fame to set her foot on the empress's shoulder,

and, in that case, she would not have hovered, a point on which the artist was particularly intent. He therefore threw over the goddess a large leaden mantle, the extremity of which rests on the back of the princess!—The best and largest edifice in Klagenfurt is the palace, part of which is inhabited by the governor, and the remainder is appropriated to the different departments of the regency. The town is surrounded with walls and a ditch, but they are of such a nature that it cannot be considered as a military post.

Some writer has done the town of Bruck, in Styria, the honour to consider it as the principal residence of persons with wens. I cannot say that I saw more there than in other places; but wens are, alas! an evil which appears to extend over the whole provinces of Styria and Carinthia. You sometimes meet likewise with *Cretins* or Idiots. Of these there are of course different gradations; but I have not seen such brutal or rather vegetating creatures as you find in the Valais in Switzerland. In other respects they very nearly resemble the latter. I observed the greatest number of these wretched objects between Bruck and Grätz; but I was told that this must not be taken as a criterion for the whole country, because their relations are accustomed to send them out to beg on the high-roads.—In Carinthia and Styria, in Switzerland, in the duchy of Aosta, and some parts of the Appenines, I have invariably observed that the females have the largest wens. A wen which has attained to a certain size appears to be intimately connected with idiocy. The idiots in general have wens; and a person who has a very large one is commonly, in a certain degree, an idiot. I have frequently sent you my observations on this melancholy phenomenon, and given it as my opinion, that, among the various causes assigned for it, the water contributes to produce wens more than any other. The people of this country agree with me. In almost every part where wens are frequent, I have found the water turbid, of a whitish colour, occasioned by a species of fine earth, which when the water is left to stand settles to the bottom, and feels like a kind of slime. My system, however, is rather shaken by my having found, in my last journey, a great number of people with wens in places where the water appeared to be perfectly limpid and transparent. It is possible, and out of tenderness to my system, I am ready to believe, that they were not natives of those parts, especially as I am informed that they are so frequently sent by their relatives to the high-roads.

LETTER XXII.

KIRSCHTHEUER.—DESCRIPTION OF THE LOIBEL AND THE ROAD OVER IT.—INHABITANTS OF CARNIOLA.—LAY-BACH.—IDRIA.—QUICKSILVER-MINE.—THE PEAR-TREE WOOD.—SUBTERRANEAN CAVERNS.—GROTTO AND CASTLE OF LUEG.—TRIEST.—THE HARBOUR.—THE MOLE.—THE GROTTO OF CORGNALÉ.

TRIEST, *May 28.*

WHEN we left Klagenfurt, early on the 3d, the weather was sharp and unfavourable. We proceeded the first stage, through a pleasant and tolerably level valley, in which only a small part of the way went up and down hill. As we descended from a steep declivity into the valley on which Kirschtheuer is situated, I had an opportunity of admiring the grand style in which the Austrian roads over the mountains are constructed.

Soon after we had left Kirschtheuer we began to ascend again, and it was four hours and a half before we reached the highest summit, without ever coming to any plain, though here and there we went down hill. The distance between Kirschtheuer and Krainburg, being eighteen miles, is called the pass of the Loibel, which must not be considered as a single mountain, but as a long range of mountains, rising one above the other, and round which the traveller keeps continually winding, till he at length arrives at two pyramids, which mark the highest point, and form the boundary between Carinthia and Carniola.

Considered as a high-road, this pass is certainly the loftiest of the kind that I have seen in Europe. It is longer and higher than the Bochetta, leading from Piedmont, beyond Novi, into the territories of Genoa; considerably higher than Penman-mawr in North Wales; higher than the road over the Appenines, near Bologna, Tolentino, or Macerata; and so much higher than those of Switzerland that the latter appear trifling in comparison to it. If we consider the extreme steepness of most of the heights of the Loibel, it is impossible to forbear admiring the genius of him who first conceived the grand idea of carrying a road for heavy carriages across these acclivities. It is constructed with a solidity that places it in the rank of the greatest works of antiquity; being on one side principally hewn out of the rock, and supported by strong walls on the other. Towards the precipice it is provided partly with railing and partly with

walls. During the last hour and a half the mountain was so steep, that I frequently discovered with astonishment the direction of the road we had to go, by means of the wooden posts in the almost perpendicular rocks that towered high above my head.

Four hours and a half after we had left Kirschtheuer, we at length reached the highest point of this road, distinguished by two large stone pyramids. The descent from the summit of the Loibel to Neumärktl occupied two hours and a half, so that the whole pass took us seven hours and a half. Neumärktl is situated among the mountains which we were now gradually leaving. We soon afterwards arrived at a charming plain, surrounded at some distance by mountains, and in which Krainburg has an agreeable situation on the banks of the Sáva.

On the road from Krainburg to Laybach we constantly remained in the vicinity of the Sáva, which embellishes the charming, fertile, and well-cultivated plain, through which the road leads. It is surrounded by low hills, behind which others more lofty rear their heads; and to the south you will discover the summits of the snow-clad mountains. This tract between Krainburg and Laybach I consider one of the finest I have seen since my departure from Vienna.

The houses of the country-people are very small, and frequently of wood; the windows not two feet square, and many even appeared to me to occupy scarcely one square foot. They have no chimnies, so that the smoke finds its way out of the house where it can. I observed some few with a story above the ground-floor; and in these a large aperture was left as a vent for the smoke. The people themselves differ considerably from those of Upper Styria. They are of a finer growth, taller, and have a better complexion and more delicate features.

Laybach is a very pretty place; and contains a great number of large elegant structures, among which are several public buildings. Some of the churches, especially in the interior, are in a far better taste than is usually found in Germany. I was particularly pleased with the interior of the cathedral, which bears a considerable resemblance to that of St. Peter's, at Rome. It is entirely painted in fresco, and though not in a first-rate style, yet every thing indicates its vicinity to the frontiers of Italy. The public schools are in a large handsome building, appropriated to that purpose. The Jesuits' convent at Laybach is converted into assembly-rooms. The palace situated on an eminence close to the town, is visited only on account of the prospect it commands, as it is now nothing more than barracks for recruits. Its situation is, however, romantic; and the view from the lawn is charming. The river Laybach runs through the town; and though navigable, yet the use that is made of it is

very inconsiderable. Three bridges over it connect the different parts of the town.

In Carinthia, and still more frequently in Carniola, particularly in the vicinity of Laybach, I observed the machine every where standing in the fields, which I had seen in Sweden, for the purpose of drying the corn after it is cut. It seems to prove that in these parts, the seasons must be very wet.

We left Laybach on the 5th of May, and proceeded nine miles to Upper Laybach, where we left the great road, in order to visit Idria, about eighteen miles distant from the last-mentioned place. Idria, so celebrated for its quicksilver mines, lies in a valley surrounded on every side by pretty lofty mountains. The valley being extremely narrow, the houses gradually ascend the sides of the hills; each stands detached, and has a small piece of land annexed to it, in which the miners raise a few vegetables notwithstanding the inclemency of the climate, and the sterility of the soil. The inhabitants of Idria, about three thousand five hundred in number, who are separated by high mountains from the rest of the world, are all miners, or belong to miners. The number of labourers above and below is stated at nine hundred, exclusive of upwards of three hundred woodcutters, who fell timber in the forests, which they float down the rivers, or prepare in various ways. M. Gersdorf, who has the superintendence over all the works, informed me, that, for a considerable period, from five to six hundred tons of quicksilver have annually been made at that place. A great quantity used to be exported to Spain, whence it was transported to America, for the amalgamation of the silver-ores; but the Spaniards some time since refused to pay the increased price that was demanded for the quicksilver. The greatest part of it is now conveyed to Vienna, where it is sold on the account of the Emperor; but I could not learn for what purposes it is particularly employed, or to what countries it is exported, but it is said that great quantities are sent to England.

You cannot be ignorant that this mine is reckoned the finest and most magnificent in the world. You enter through an extensive building; and every part is so roomy, so neat, and clean, that I felt none of those disagreeable sensations which even the finest mines produce in a greater or less degree. You proceed on level ground, under a lofty and tolerably spacious vault, till you arrive at the descents. Into these you are conducted by clean stone steps, which are kept in excellent repair. These steps have several landing-places, paved with flag-stones, and some of which are provided with benches to rest upon. As the miners proceed deeper into the pit, the passages continue to be arched over, and provided with steps. I observed only a few

parts that were supported by wood. Here and there they come to the solid rock, which is merely hewn out, and of course requires no support. The ore is not always of equal richness; but on an average it contains about fifty per cent.; some furnishes less, but from other portions eighty per cent. is extracted. The principal shaft is eighty-six fathoms in depth; and the small quantity of virgin-quicksilver that is occasionally found is shewn as a rarity.

This mine belongs to the government, and is conducted entirely at its expence. The officers have very moderate salaries; all the other inhabitants, with the exception of some few, are miners, who derive their whole subsistence from their profession. Their pay is various, and begins with five kreuzers* a day. When they have raised it to twelve kreuzers, they begin to think of marriage, as they then consider themselves able to support a wife out of their wages. The most they receive is seventeen kreuzers; for which they must work eight hours under, or ten above the ground. The rest of their time is occupied by domestic employments, and the cultivation of a small piece of ground, in which they raise cabbages, potatoes, and other vegetables, and many likewise earn a trifling sum by other means, so that their daily earnings may amount to about twenty kreuzers. Many of the women employ themselves in weaving lace. They are commended for their constancy and the purity of their morals, as the men are for their honesty and obedience to their superiors. Their houses are mostly small, and are each inhabited by two or three families. The scanty subsistence which these people procure, the insalubrity of the occupation of miners in general and of this valley in particular, cause the duration of human life here to be but short. Forty is considered a fair age, many die younger, and very few live to be old.

Leaving Idria, we proceeded the same evening to Loitsch, where we passed the night, and on the 7th went forward to Plannina, behind which place, and near the high road, is situated an uncommonly romantic spot. In a corner formed by perpendicular rocks appears at a great depth the aperture of a spacious grotto, from which issues a stream of no inconsiderable magnitude.

We were now in what is called the Pear-tree Wood, a desolate, barren, and rocky tract, of considerable extent, which is almost uninhabited, and appears to produce scarcely any thing but wood, heath, and stunted herbage; such, with some exceptions, is the whole country of Triest. It is in this tract that we find those numerous, large, and celebrated grottos, or subterra-

* A kreuzer is three-sevenths of a penny, or something less than a half-penny, English money.

neous caverns, some of which are said to be upwards of four miles in length, and which exhibit stalactites of singular forms. The Magdalen Grotto, near Adelsberg; that of Lueg; that of St. Servio, near Triest: the Grotto of Corgnale; and those of the lake of Zirknitz, are the most celebrated.

We went to see that at Lueg; a wretched village, behind which, in the perpendicular rocks, are three grottos, one above another. The lowest is inaccessible, because a small stream discharges its current into it and disappears. Above the lowermost grotto rises another, which is said to be two miles in length, and is almost in every part very spacious. Five of the country people lighted us into it with splinters of hazle-wood, and we soon lost the day-light. The height is in general about twenty feet, and the breadth from twelve to sixteen. Here and there I observed large, handsome stalactites, of which, as usual, the imagination forms a variety of objects; most of them appeared to me to resemble the roofs of the Gothic cathedrals in England. After proceeding a full quarter of an hour, the ground began to be wet, and we returned.

Above this grotto rises a third, consisting of several divisions; in its wide aperture some person conceived the extraordinary idea of erecting the castle of Lueg. It belongs to a Count Cobenzl, but who, as you may imagine, seldom visits it, and then only for a very short time. The building, which is said to be several hundred years old, is capacious, but has not five good apartments. All but those in the front are dark, gloomy, and damp. Behind the castle we were shewn an apartment hewn out of the rock of the grotto, but which has fallen to ruin. The tradition that in ancient times a knight was treacherously murdered at this place, might furnish a good subject for an horrific romance; and to a novelist of that description, the view of this spot would be of incalculable advantage.—We returned to Adelsberg, where we passed the night.

The distance between Adelsberg and Triest, about thirty-three miles, is principally a desolate, thinly inhabited and still worse cultivated country. That part of the way is particularly dreary which goes over the Karst, a considerable mountainous tract, of which naked rocks compose by far the greater portion. Here you may study Nature in her infancy; for I passed over several hills, where the rocks that cover the soil appear as if they had been recently produced by some great convulsion. At length you arrive at the end of the Karst, and suddenly find yourself on the brink of a precipice, which would make you shudder, did you not anticipate the appearance of Hesperia's enchanting plains. Here with one view you survey the Adriatic Sea, the capacious bay of Triest, with all its promontories, part of the town, with Istria on the left, and to the right, along the northern frontiers of

Venice, a vast range of lofty Alps, still covered with snow. Just below your feet you have a little verdant world, a blooming garden, which the hand of industry has created upon the naked rocks or steep declivities. What a contrast with the country we had just traversed! The spectator would imagine he had been transported ten degrees farther to the south; the difference is much greater and more sudden than when you go from the Swiss Alps into Lombardy, or from the Appenines into the smiling vales of Tuscany. This view is highly gratifying, and peculiarly interesting to a native of the North; who here for the first time beholds Italian vegetation, and finds the chesnut, the cypress, the fig, the peach, the almond, and the olive, flourishing in the open air, and at such a considerable height. Here and there terraces have been formed, with excessive labour, upon walls, on which grow abundance of grapes, that afford an excellent kind of wine.

Triest cannot be called a handsome town, though it contains a great number of good, well-built, stone houses. Most of the streets are wide; indeed they are so spacious that the houses at first seem to be lower than they actually are, till you observe that most of them are three or four stories high. The streets are all paved with broad flag-stones, many of which are seven, eight, and even ten feet long, by three, four, and five, broad.

The number of stationary inhabitants in this town, is computed at from 28 to 30,000 persons, and that of the seafaring people and strangers who are continually coming and going, is stated at several thousands more. This statement was given me by a person in an official situation in this place, and I think is likely to be correct; but the English consul, who has resided several years at Triest, asserts, that the population exceeds 36,000 souls, and that, including the mariners and strangers, it cannot be less than 40,000. The increasing population is a cause of general complaint among the old inhabitants, who find it difficult to accustom themselves to the advancing price of every commodity. In fact, Triest is a very expensive place, and every thing is dearer there than at Vienna.

I was surprised to observe the number of ships lying in the harbour, which appears to be equally secure and commodious. Two large canals run out of it a considerable distance into the town, and afford a place for the reception of a large number of vessels. These canals were the labour of an early period, for they are not calculated for the kind of commerce in which of late years this town has been engaged. The harbour is a scene of constant bustle and activity, and I am much mistaken if it be not much more lively than that of Leghorn. It is a free port in the most extensive sense of the word.

Triest contains a great number of carriages, many of which

are very elegant. I was astonished to find so many coaches in a sea-port, and surrounded by such a mountainous country; but was informed that almost every tradesman who does any business keeps his carriage, and at no very great expence. The coffee-houses are likewise numerous at Triest; and a considerable part of the company by which they are frequented, sit before the door; for this purpose a large linen cloth is spread upon poles, so as to form a kind of tent.

Triest has for many years been increasing in wealth and consequence at the expence of her neighbour Venice. Büsching says that in 1770 it contained thirty great mercantile houses: it now has above one hundred. The magnificent mole was constructed by the directions of Maria Theresa. It extends about fifteen hundred feet into the sea, and forms an excellent road: upon it there is room for fifty pieces of cannon, though not more than thirty are mounted; but all these are in good order, and among them I saw eighteen and twenty four pounders. The mole includes the old Lazaretto, or place of quarantine, which is now used only as barracks for soldiers. Opposite the mole, and consequently on the contrary side of the town, is the new Lazaretto, with a distinct harbour, which is likewise inclosed by a mole, and which must not be confounded with that belonging to the town. The Castle stands on an eminence considerably higher than the town, and must once have been pretty strong. It is now scarcely used but as a place of confinement for prisoners; but the view from the platform is such as amply to repay the trouble of going to see it. The great imperial flag is kept flying on this edifice, and below it are a few pieces of cannon, with which the salutes fired by ships of war on their arrival are returned.

This town has a wretched theatre, where you may to-day see the genuine feats and burlesque buffoonery of Harlequin, and to-morrow Voltaire's *Zuïre* acted by the same persons. On the whole, Triest is totally destitute of public evening amusements; even of respectable private companies there are but few. The governor, Count Brigido, brother to the Archbishop of Laybach, however, keeps an open house, that is, he receives company every evening to card-tables and refreshments, and occasionally gives dinners.

From Triest we made an excursion to see the grotto of Corgnale, so called from a village of that name, near which it is situated. This grotto not only surpasses in beauty that of Lueg, but any that I ever beheld. The figures of the stalactites exhibit an uncommon variety of forms, and likewise a grander style and larger proportions than any I had yet met with. It is particularly distinguished for the columns on which the vaulted roof reposes like that of a Gothic church. Many of

these columns are twenty, thirty, or more feet in length, and of proportionable thickness. The flame of a torch, or of burning straw, produces a grand and picturesque effect. Many of the stalactites suspended from the roof are twelve or fifteen feet in length, and at the top, where they are united to it, are not less than fifteen or eighteen feet in circumference.

The grotto has the peculiarity that the entrance is not horizontal into a hill or eminence, but in a plain from which you are obliged to descend nearly in a perpendicular direction. You continue descending steep declivities, arriving now and then at nearly perpendicular shafts, in which a kind of stone steps have been cut; but these have been formed with so little care, and are partly rendered so slippery with the water that is continually dropping upon them, that you every moment run great risk of falling. We proceeded about a quarter of an hour, when the steps ceased, and the perpendicular descent prevented our advancing any farther. I am informed, that the length of this grotto has never been ascertained, but that, from various reasons, it is supposed to have a second opening, at the distance of two German (upwards of nine English) miles.

We resided at Triest, in the same inn in which Winkelmann was assassinated. His murderer, Angelo, was six weeks afterwards apprehended, and broken on the wheel in the great square under our windows. Winkelmann had reposed the utmost confidence in this servant, though he had received repeated warnings to be upon his guard.

LETTER XXIII.

JOURNEY TO VENICE.—SAN GIOVANNI.—THE TIMAVO.—GRADISCA.—GÖRZ.—UDINE.—CAMPO FORMIO.—PASSAGE OF THE TAGLIAMENTO.—PORDENONE.—SACILE.—CONEGLIANO.—THE PIAVE.—TREVISO.—MESTRE.

VENICE, June 2.

WE left Triest on the 28th of May, and were obliged for an hour to return by the same road we had come from Vienna, till we arrived at the place where that which leads to Venice branches off from the former. Nine miles from Triest is Hëiligenkreuz or Santa Croce; and at the same distance from the latter is situated San Giovanni, which is almost entirely deserted; such being the insalubrity of the air, that it has driven away all the inhabitants. The place exhibits a dreary view of houses in ruins, and others which are nodding to their fall.

Close to this spot are the sources of the Timao or Timavo. This singular river was celebrated in ancient times, for the *Fontes*

Timavi are mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus, and who does not recollect the *Fontem et Saxa Timavi* in Virgil? Here at a very small distance from each other, are the sources of seven streams, which are collectively denominated the *Timao*. All of them issue from naked rocks, and in such abundance that each of the seven springs forms a considerable brook; they immediately unite and compose a navigable stream, so that at the distance of a few hundred paces from the source, I actually observed a vessel of not very small dimensions with several sails.

I am assured, that not the least trace of this mass of water is to be discovered, and that it collects entirely in subterraneous reservoirs, till it at once bursts forth in these seven streams. The circumstance would appear more striking to me, if I had not before observed, from the numerous caverns, that the whole country between *Adelsberg*, *Zirknitz*, *Triest*, and *San Giovanni*, must be undermined, and that Nature here carries on such subterraneous operations as perhaps in no other part of the known world.

From *Santa Croce* it is about fourteen miles to *Monfalcone*, which lies in what was formerly the Venetian territory. From *San Giovanni* to this place the country is low and swampy; and every thing indicates that fevers must be very frequent. *Gradisca* is an insignificant town, and the fortifications, whose large round towers still give them a handsome and picturesque appearance, have for many years been entirely neglected.

Görz, or as it is here generally called, *Goritia*, is a handsome town, with about twelve thousand inhabitants. I observed a great number of very good houses, most of which belong to noble families. It is the capital of a county of the same name; and has a picturesque situation on the *Lisonzo*. It lies in a plain, having on the north side moderate eminences, behind which rise high mountains, that are succeeded by others still more lofty. While the view to the north possesses all the characteristics of Swiss scenery, the spectator is charmed by the beauties which the climate of Italy affords in the plain. The opera-house of *Görz*, though not remarkable for its exterior, is internally elegant and well contrived. The *Castello* or Fort commands an extensive view over the adjacent country, which produces great quantities of excellent wine.

Among the middling towns of Italy, of the second class, I scarcely know of any that I like so well as *Udine*. You do not here find that dull inactivity which characterizes most of the Italian towns of the same rank, nor those evident symptoms of decay which rather shew what a place has been, than what it is. A population of seventeen or eighteen thousand persons gives the place a lively air; and its numerous shops shew that it has some trade and industry, which are so rarely met with in these pro-

vinces. We were taken to the Theatre or Opera-house, which is surpassed in elegance by very few in Germany. The palace of the former Luogotenente, as the principal magistrate was denominated, is built in an extremely grand and magnificent style. It is, however, apparent, that it has been neglected for a great number of years, and that the Venetian governors came hither rather with a view to make their fortunes, than to maintain the dignity and grandeur of which their forefathers laid the foundation. It is extraordinary, that from one end of Italy to the other, certain customs universally prevail, which to us appear repulsive and disgusting. Here, as well as at Bologna, in the Capitol at Rome, and in various other places, the criminals are confined in the same building in which the chief magistrate of the place resides. The senator of Rome has them exactly under his windows; and at Udine they are kept on the ground-floor of the palace. The windows of the prison open towards the terrace, which is the spot that commands the finest prospect, and where one would consequently prefer to walk.

Next to the palace of the Luogotenente, that of the Archbishop is the most remarkable structure. The town likewise contains a great number of good private houses; in one of these is a chapel, which is worth seeing, on account of its sculpture. The four walls are in *alto-relievo* of white marble; and it is the workmanship of Toretti, who shows himself a great master of the art, though the Venetian school very plainly appears in his performances. The subjects represented here are: the Virgin Mary's visit to Anna; Zachariah naming his son; Mary's presentation in the temple, and her purification. The proprietor of the house is named Torreani.—The cathedral is internally a handsome structure, and contains some good bass-reliefs in wood, not to mention the marble floor and many altars, which are common to all the churches of Italy. Under the houses are piazzas, supported by columns, partly of wood and partly of stone.

At Campo Formio, or as it is likewise called Campo Formido, a village near Udine, the treaty of peace was two years since signed between Austria and France. The Archduke Charles resided at Udine, and Buonaparte at Passeriano, a charming country-seat of the then Doge Mancini, twelve miles from Udine, and nearer Venice. As neither party was willing to go to the other, the village of Campo Formio, four miles from Udine and eight from Passeriano, was chosen for the place of meeting. The high road from Venice runs through the village, where an insignificant house was pointed out to me as that in which the peace was concluded.

We changed horses near Passeriano, at Codroipo, a village

about fourteen miles from Udine; and soon afterwards arrived the Tagliamento, which we had to cross. Its bed, which is a good mile in breadth, is covered with large stones. Over these, which were very slippery, we had a difficult passage, for some distance, through the dry bed of the river, till we came to a rapid stream, over which we were ferried. We had again to proceed over a dry part of the bed of the river, till we came to a second stream, and presently after to a third; but as there is no ferry for the second, a guide goes before and shows the postillion the way, and several strong men wade into the water on each side of the carriage, to hold it upright. This vast bed is not always capable of containing the torrents that sometimes swell the river, particularly after sudden heats in spring, when it inundates a vast tract of country, which is covered with sand, and thus rendered unfit for the purposes of cultivation. At such times the current is impassable; but in winter, on the contrary, it has in general so little water that it may be crossed without the assistance of any ferry.

Pordenone is an insignificant place, but contains many elegant houses, such as are only found in Italy, and particularly in the Venetian territory, in small towns. At Sacile many traces shew that this place has once known better days. A wall and turrets, bridges, and the former palace of the Podesta, merely serve for picturesque objects, which please the eye, and fill the heart with melancholy. A fine meandering stream, verdant meads, the luxuriant ivy which grows upon the ruins, and the rich vegetation of an Italian climate exhibited by the shrubs and trees, had great attractions for me.

Conegliano, fourteen miles distant from Sacile, is not a despicable place, though its Castello and once handsome walls are fallen to decay. Between Conegliano and Treviso we crossed the Piave, the third large river between Triest and Venice. This river likewise has a bed of immense breadth; and at certain seasons inundates the adjacent country. We passed it on a bridge composed of twenty-five vessels, which might be about eight hundred feet over.

Treviso is by many regarded as a place of equal importance with Udine; but in my opinion, the comparison is greatly to the disadvantage of the former, which rather exhibits a picture of what it has been, than of what it now is. The large town-house at Treviso, the many large and elegant churches, and a great number of respectable buildings, prove that it was once an opulent place. At present you perceive evident traces of poverty, and you find neither the activity, industry, nor cleanliness, by which Udine is distinguished. Treviso, however, contains several cof-

fee-houses and two theatres, and it has three bridges over the Piaveselle.

Mestre is an uncommon lively place, and appears to be extremely populous. The canal which runs from this place to the Lagunes, and is three Italian miles in length, is full of boats and gondolas. On each side of it runs a broad road, bordered by numerous houses, many of which belong to citizens of Venice. From Mestre to Venice is but one stage, which we went in two hours.

LETTER XXIV.

VENICE.—THE HORSES OF LYSIPPUS.—VARIOUS ALTERATIONS IN THE CITY BY THE REVOLUTION.—THE ARSENAL.—SAN GIORGIO MOGGIORE.—BEGGARS.—POVERTY OF THE HIGHER CLASSES.—VENICE A RUINED CITY.—OF THE CHURCHES.—THE NEW OPERA-HOUSE LA FENICE.—EXCURSION TO MALAMOCCO AND PALESTRINA.—THE MOLE.—THE PADRI ARMENI.—CANOVI'S PSYCHE IN THE PALACE MANCINI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON VENICE.

VENICE, *June 11, 1799.*

IT is not my intention to give you a circumstantial description of Venice, as you have the letters which I wrote you five years since, during a month's residence in this city. The subject to which I shall principally confine myself is, the alterations that have taken place since the occupation of this state by the French, and its cession to the Austrian government; at the same time, touching occasionally on others which appeared worthy of notice, and highly interested to me, even in my second visit to this city.

In whatever direction you go you always arrive at the square of St. Mark. I have this time renewed the acquaintance I made with it five years since. In the celebrated church of St. Mark I perceive no alteration, excepting the removal of the four metal horses generally ascribed to Lysippus. The history of these horses, as related by Rannusius and others, is a true compendium of human injustice and violence. They are said to have originally stood on the triumphal arch of Augustus, at Rome, then to have been removed to Nero's, and afterwards to Domitian's. They were next placed on Trajan's arch, whence Constantine the Great removed them to his, and afterwards transported them to Constantinople. In the year 1204 the Venetians made themselves masters of that city, and finding these celebrated horses

on the Hippodrome, conveyed them to Venice, whence they have been in like manner carried off to Paris, by the French. Without vouching for the authenticity of this account, it appears to me extremely probable, that these horses were originally made in Greece, and carried to Italy by those arch-plunderers of antiquity, the Romans.

Near St. Mark's church stands a tower, which, from its large clock, is called the Clock-Tower. On it were the arms of Venice; that is, a great lion, and the figure of a Doge kneeling before it. These, according to the laudable French custom, were pulled down. The lion, after having undergone a repair, and being newly gilded, was restored to his place, but the poor Doge experienced no mercy.

On the two large columns of granite in the Piacetta, that is, in that part of St. Mark's square which opens to the great canal, are still to be seen the lion and St. Theodore, as before; but the former is now only of wood, the very handsome metal figure having been carried off by the French.

In the Procuratie Nuove, where the Procuratori di St. Marco formerly resided, there are now several imperial colleges of regency; while the vast halls of the great council, the senate, and the Squitinio, stand vacant, and are not employed for any purpose whatever. Austrian simplicity probably found them inconvenient on account of their magnitude. The apartments formerly inhabited by the Doge are also unoccupied.

Out of the different saloons of the Doge's palace, the French took no more than six or seven pictures; either because they only sought *chef d'œuvres*, or, what is more probable, they disliked the subjects; for the subjects of almost all these pieces are the victories and celebrated achievements of the aristocratic republic of Venice. It is likewise possible that they may not have known the very great value of some of these paintings, as they have taken many of inferior worth. As to private property, I am every where informed that it was respected by the French, and all the palaces I have yet seen confirm the report, having found all the finest and most celebrated pieces that I remember to have seen in my former visit. Thus I was recently in the palace Pisani Morandi, which contains the well-known performance of Paul Veronese representing Alexander the Great and his family; and the remarkable picture of the Death of Darius by Piacetta. This house was the residence of Madame Buonaparte: her husband did not come to Venice.

The arsenal bears the most conspicuous marks of the devastations committed by the modern Franks at Venice. They have, it is true, not removed the lions that stood at the entrance, and which were brought from Athens to this place; probably because

they thought them not sufficiently handsome, or because they were too heavy. All four are of white marble, and larger than life; one of them, which is lying down, being eleven feet six inches in length, from the tail to the end of the fore-foot. Their ravages were so much the greater in the arsenal itself. Besides five good and serviceable ships of war, they carried off the whole of the vast stores of all the materials for equipping a fleet; as cannons, balls, musquetry, swords, rigging, sails, cables, hemp, anchors, and even oars and the various articles of iron required for the construction and repair of ships. All these magazines now exhibit a naked appearance, and attest the decay of this once most flourishing maritime state in Europe. I however found all the workmen, whose number formerly exceeded two thousand, and are even now said to amount to fifteen hundred, in full activity, and the government appears to me to be determined to create a power hitherto unknown to the house of Austria.

A considerable quantity of stores is already collected in the halls which formerly contained the arms. The capture recently made by General Klenau on the Po, and the ammunition found at Brescia, Peschiera, &c. and also at Corfu, have been removed to this place, where all that is useful has been sorted from the rest, and arranged in separate apartments. In that containing the best of these articles, is the handsome monument erected by the republic to the hero Emo. It is of white marble, and by the hand of Canova. On a naval column (*columna rostrata*) is seated Fame, who is inscribing the hero's name in letters of gold. Victory hovers above, and crowns his figure with a wreath. In my opinion it is one of the finest performances of that excellent artist I have ever seen.

You know that the former government constantly had on the stocks a certain number of ships of the line, with which they proceeded regularly, but slowly. There were constantly six, seven, or eight, none of which was completed, and which were useless to the French, because they could not stay here long enough to finish them. These they destroyed as much as they could and the shortness of the time permitted, for as they had so much to remove, every moment was precious. From some they took away the stocks by which they were supported, so that they fell, and were rendered unserviceable; they destroyed the keels of others, and the strong beams to which the rudder is affixed: some they cut entirely to pieces, and others they sunk. The latter have since been weighed, and the former the government is now occupied in repairing, but the work proceeds but slowly, as the principal attention is directed to the smaller vessels, especially gun-boats. In all these devastations and ravages

the French had, however, a certain object; and excepting the injustice of the thing, not much can be said against their proceedings. But they destroyed a great many other things, merely out of childish petulance, and that arrogance which so peculiarly distinguishes the modern French, which is not only desirous to overturn every government that differs from their own, but even wishes to annihilate all the traces of former constitutions. Thus the lions, and the figures of the Doges in this city were the objects of their inveterate persecution, as the monuments of their former kings were in France; and many proofs of this are to be seen in the arsenal. Among the rest, the Bucentoro was particularly obnoxious. The large figures of this rich and remarkable vessel were destroyed, the many small bass-reliefs, and the carved work, which was richly gilt, were broken in pieces: besides which, they wantonly damaged it in various places. Such is the state in which it is seen at present; and, as the Austrian government cannot be interested in its preservation, it will probably not be many years before it falls entirely to ruin.

I was last Sunday in the church Della Pietà, and found with pleasure that this institution is still maintained. It is a kind of foundling-hospital, in which girls are educated. They are instructed in all kinds of employments; and particular attention is paid to the respective talents and inclination of each. Music, however, has always been their principal study, and in this art some have attained great excellence. On Sundays they give concerts in their church, when the girls not only sing, but likewise play on every kind of instrument.

I have likewise been again to San Giorgio Maggiore. You know that this is an island which, though an Italian mile in circumference, is entirely occupied by a Benedictine convent, and the buildings belonging to it. With pleasure I again beheld the church, which I always considered as one of the finest works of Palladio, at Venice, because it is less incumbered with ornament than so many others. It has not been robbed of its paintings, nor the fine bass-reliefs in wood, representing the history of St. Benedict, which decorated the choir. But in the refectory was the celebrated marriage of Cana, reckoned to be the chef d'œuvre of Paul Veronese. Unfortunately it was on canvas, like most of the pictures at Venice, and it was therefore included among the plunder which the French carried off from this place. The refectory is now shut, and contains salt and flour for the army. The large trees which formerly adorned the extensive and charming gardens of this island, have all been cut down by the levelling hands of these modern Franks. The library of this convent was highly celebrated. It not only contained abundance of rare and valuable works, but likewise many manuscripts, and,

as they were called, *editiones principes*, or books printed in 1400. Most of the best works have been removed by the French.

That great poverty prevails at Venice, and that the city swarms with mendicants, is well known: but both have recently increased in an extraordinary degree. The square of St. Mark, and all the churches, are infested with beggars that are inconceivably troublesome to strangers, whom they particularly follow. I must confess, that I sometimes lose all patience, when I observe how I, out of twenty or thirty persons, am made the object of their attack. They run after you from one end of the long square of St. Mark to the other, with an obstinacy that is doubly provoking, when you perceive that the inhabitants of the place are at the same time suffered to walk along in peace. But there is another class of paupers, whose appearance and history must move even the most unfeeling. On the day of our arrival, I saw on the Rialto a woman dressed in black silk, before whom, on one of the steps of the bridge, lay a little child. The mother knelt on the hard stone, having a fan in her right hand, with which she drove away the flies from the child, while her left was silently extended to receive charity. On another bridge a well-dressed man was kneeling, and silently holding his right hand before him. I imagined that he was engaged in some act of devotion, but was informed that he, in this manner, implored the compassion of the passengers. I also frequently see well-dressed women, whose faces are entirely veiled, walking in St. Mark's Square, with saucers in their hands. They never ask charity, nor speak to any person, nor even hold out their saucers, but keep their hands quietly before them, leaving it to the humanity of the passenger to put a trifle into them. Of these things the inhabitants of Venice take no notice, being accustomed to them. It is admitted, that there are families which have been ruined by the Revolution. The Austrian government has indeed, as much as possible, left every thing as it found it; few of the inferior officers in the different departments of the state have lost their situations; but that it could not provide for all those who were in various ways deprived of a subsistence, may very easily be conceived.

With respect to the *nobili* of this city, as they were called, there were always some among them who were very poor; but as long as the aristocratic government continued, they occasionally obtained some little place or other. This now ceases to be the case; but the emperor allows to each person of that class two *lire* (about tenpence sterling) per day; which, in a city like Venice, is a very insignificant sum indeed.

In my journey through the continental territories of Venice I

observed, that the emperor in general appoints natives to official situations. For the same reason; probably, Pesaro, a man of one of the first families at Venice, was appointed minister. He has not been long dead; at Vienna many believed that he was poisoned, but this opinion is positively contradicted here, and by persons who are perfectly acquainted with the recent history of the city. From all that I can collect, Pesaro was not so disagreeable to the Venetians as at Vienna he was supposed to be. Discontents will always exist, and be excited by those who are at the head of every government. Thus they are already discontented with Pellegrini the new Regent; and for this additional reason, that, being a native of Florence, he is a foreigner. "Since the death of Pesaro," say they, "every thing has become dearer, and Venice is impoverished." In my opinion, the dearness arises from the renewal of the war, and not from Pesaro's death; but with respect to the increasing poverty of the town, this will continue to be more evident the more it is perceived, that a general change has taken place.

At Venice there must, from the nature of things, be a great number of discontented persons. Consider only what a number of *nobili* were sent over the whole country in the quality of Podesta, Luogotenenti, &c. so that there was scarcely the smallest place whose chief magistrate was not from the body of the sovereignty. This rich source of emolument has now ceased; for when the Austrian government appoints a native to an official situation, he is selected from the place itself, and not from among the ancient nobility of Venice. All business was formerly transacted in that metropolis; but now each province has its own regency; and Verona, Padua, and other towns, may be considered as the capitals of their particular districts. From these and other circumstances Venice is a ruined city. Only consider the number of inhabitants of the provinces who were obliged on so many occasions to visit the metropolis; how many persons derived a subsistence from that source, and how much it contributed to the general prosperity of the inhabitants. Even many of the *nobili*, who were confined to the city by their situations in the council, and there spent their income, partly derived from estates on the continent, have retired to those estates, since they no longer have a capital, nor a share in the government. Those who held official posts in the provinces, usually brought back with them at the expiration of their government, a sum of money, acquired either by just or unjust means. This source of profit no longer exists; as well as that which the city derived from the many foreign ambassadors, who expended annually considerable sums. All these circumstances considered, it would indeed be wonderful, if the city of Venice were contented with

the alteration.—Another cause of dissatisfaction is, that this State is not yet organized, and that all the regulations which have been adopted are only provisory. As few alterations as possible have been made; but the old government no longer exists, and the new one is not fixed on a solid basis. Conversing on this subject with a very intelligent and well-informed Austrian, he said to me: *En attendant ils seront provisoirement ruinés.*—"In the mean time they will be provisorily ruined."

Notwithstanding all this, the present government seems in general to be more liked than the democracy which succeeded the overthrow of the former republic, and which, to my surprise, was most detested by the very lowest classes of the people. Had the Senate possessed the courage to defend itself, had not the cancer preyed too deeply on the vitals of the government, it might have relied on receiving powerful support from the people. I am informed, that the Dalmatians in particular shewed an extraordinary willingness to defend it with all their power. But here appeared that phenomenon, which would have been the more striking had it not been before observed at Naples, and in other countries: a great number of the most decided Jacobins belonged to the nobility. Many of that class were quite intoxicated with the *Repubblica Veneta Democratica*, and the female part of their families danced like Bacchantes round the tree of liberty.

In my present visit to this city, I think I derive much greater pleasure from the pictures of the Venetian School than five years ago. I then came from Rome; but perhaps, now that the best pieces have been removed, I set a higher value on the remainder. The city, indeed, still contains much that is excellent, of which I shall not detain you with the description, but proceed to mention the principal of those which have been carried off by the French.

In the Church della Carita is wanting the Resurrection of Lazarus by Leander Bessano, which was regarded as the best piece that structure contained. In the Scuola della Carita all the pictures were left; but the silver plate, to the amount of eleven thousand ounces, was taken away.

In the former Jesuits Convent, situated near the Dogana di Mare, and now belonging to the Dominicans, an excellent library was cruelly plundered by the French.

In the church of San Giovanni e Paolo hung Titian's celebrated picture of Peter the Martyr, which, as may naturally be supposed, was removed. To this church belongs a convent of immense extent, and constructed in a grand and rich style. The refectory was particularly beautiful, but the French destroyed it, and the monastery is now a military hospital.

Contiguous to this convent is the Scuola di San Marco, an extensive building, with large and elegant halls. The French destroyed and defaced the interior, and robbed it of two of its best paintings. It has since undergone a partial repair.

In the great church of the Jesuits, which is one of the most magnificent in Venice, hung the Martyrdom of St. Laurence, an admirable performance of Titian, which has likewise found its way to Paris.

In the church of Serviti I saw the statue of Admiral Emo, erected to his memory by his nephews. It is by Ferraro Torretti, the master of the celebrated Canova. The workmanship is very good, but the figure is represented in a modern uniform, and, it must be admitted, that lace, epaulettes, tassels, &c. are not fit subjects for sculpture. The whole is without effect, and without taste, whatever merit the details may possess.

The church of St. Jeremiah is a new, and as yet unfinished, structure, the architect of which is the Abbate Carlo Corbellini, of Brescia. I confess that I cannot look at this church without the utmost regret; nay, I even consider the undertaking as a theft committed on the public, because this city has already two hundred churches; that is, at least twice the number it wants. The worst point belonging to enterprizes of this kind is, that the clergy announce them to the people as good works, and that not only the rich, but many of the inferior classes, and even the poor, contribute their mite, and thus frequently debar themselves of immediate necessities.

Near the Scuola di San Fantino is the eighth and newest theatre, called La Fenice, which was finished but two years since. It is the most elegant structure of any, and the largest but one, which is very old. The assembly-rooms, contiguous to it, are large, handsome, and convenient. I saw one night at this house the grand opera of *Adelaide and Guesclin*, in which Mad. Angiolini, whom I think I have seen on the stage in Germany, Davide, whom I have frequently heard in England, and Bombelli, performed. The decorations were diversified and elegant; the ballet was by Vigano the elder, who, as well as his son, danced. The wife of the latter is the celebrated dancer who some years since attracted such admiration at Vienna. The interior of this edifice has five stories.

In the library of San Marco, or the great library belonging to the city, I again saw with pleasure the fine painted ceilings, as well as some antiques, in what is denominated the Hall of Antiquities. Many of the manuscripts and scarce books were carried off by the French.

In the church of St. Zachariah there was formerly a beautiful painting, by Giovanni Bellino, and another by Paul Veronese.

Both were taken away by the French; but the nuns, to whom this church belongs, have already replaced them with two other pictures, one of which is by Jordans, and the other by Palma Vecchio.

A few days since we made an excursion to Malamocco and Palestrina, which I so contrived, that we obtained a sight of all the islands that lie scattered in the Venetian Lagunes. On the island of Palestrina are three tolerably populous places, San Pietro, Portosecco, and Palestrina. Beyond the last place, towards Chioggia, this island extends several Italian miles, but is perfectly unserviceable. In this part it is not one hundred feet broad, and of these the Mole occupies above seventy. Of the Mole only four Italian miles and a half are quite finished; namely, from the harbour of Chioggia to the village of Palestrina. It has lately suffered great injury from the breaking of the Adriatic Sea against it; so that should it be neglected a few years longer 200,000*l.* would perhaps not be sufficient merely to repair it. The stone of which it is constructed, an inferior species of marble, was brought from Istria, a distance of nearly one hundred miles. The small portion of land lying between the three above-mentioned villages and the Mole, is almost entirely occupied by gardens, the productions of which are principally carried to Venice. As the island is very narrow, there is but a very small quantity of land left for cultivation, so that, on comparing the number of its inhabitants with its contents in square miles, it would probably be found to be more populous even than Malta.

The island on which the town of Malamocco is situated contains a greater quantity of land, and is not so much exposed to the violence of the sea as Palestrina. The town is lively, and tolerably populous. At the north end of this island lies San Nicolo, which had a harbour capable of admitting ships of moderate size. It was from this harbour that the Doge annually went some distance out to sea, to solemnize the celebrated nuptials.

The island of San Eleazaro is likewise called *î Padri Armeni*, because it is inhabited by Armenian monks. We landed, and were very courteously received by one of the fathers, who was joined by several more, all of whom vied with each other in the attention they shewed us. Their church, library, refectory, garden, and corridors, evince such a degree of cleanliness, neatness, and regularity, as I had never before witnessed in a convent. I imagined myself in England; every thing exhibited a certain taste, and even elegance. Besides manuscripts, they possess many printed Armenian books, several of which I inspected. Among the rest, they shewed me an Armenian Bible, with a Latin translation, printed at London. The members of this fra-

ternity wear a long black dress, and long beards. They must all be natives of Armenia; and to keep up their number they are continually receiving recruits from that country. They receive young people from the age of twelve to eighteen, whom they instruct and educate.

With respect to the pictures contained in the churches, and in private collections, I found few alterations, excepting those occasioned by the visit of the French, which I have already mentioned. In the Palace Mancini I however found an addition; namely, the *Psyche* of Canova, which has been there about two years, and is perhaps the finest statue I have seen from the chisel of that son of the Graces. I know no other living sculptor that can be placed in competition with him. This *Psyche* is a maiden in the most blooming period of youthful beauty. Her face, and her small breasts, which have not yet attained their full growth, distinctly mark her age. She is naked to the waist, and the rest of the figure is covered only in part, with a light drapery. She is attentively observing a butterfly, which she holds by the wings. In the expression and the whole body there is a tenderness which excites the love and respect of the spectator. Every part breathes grace, and the loveliest and purest innocence.

My residence at Venice has this time pleased me much more than five years ago. At that time all the impressions of Rome were still new; I had still all the master-pieces of every kind before my eyes, and was satiated with the objects which are found in Italy, and no where but in that country. Now I could make no nearer comparisons than with Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway; and Venice is certainly very different from any of those. I was, therefore, much more sensible to the beauties of the Venetian school, notwithstanding the difference between its productions and those of the Roman and Bolognese schools, and the excessive incumbrance of the architecture.

Venice, however, is far from being the city it once was, though Austria treats it with the utmost indulgence. It is wonderful how much the government retains of its ancient form. Among other things, the greatest part of the troops which do the duty of the city, is composed of the same Dalmatians whom the republic was so fond of employing, and to whom the people were accustomed. Even their uniform is the same, with the exception of some slight alterations.

The contrast between the former and present times is no where so striking as on the Grand Canal, which is now very dead in comparison with what it once was. "What is become of all the gondolas which used to swarm on this canal?"—*La rivoluzione!* they reply, with an Italian shrug. "But there must yet be a great number of opulent families who pay visits, or go abroad to

take the air?"—*Stanno in casa*—"They remain at home," is the answer.—"And the numerous boats and gondolas, which formerly rowed for wagers, while a crowd of loiterers ran after them? And the many gondoliers and boat-men who used to sing and laugh and joke of an evening?"—*Non hanno piu spirito*—"They have no spirits, or life."—I frequently become impatient at such unsatisfactory answers; but it is certain, that in these respects a great alteration has taken place at Venice. One of the most sensible reasons that can be assigned is, that a great number of the members of the former council, who were confined to the city, now generally spend the greatest part of the year in the country.

LETTER XXV.

SALZBURG.—THE MÖNCHSBERG.—THE CAPUCINERBERG.
 MUNICH.—THE PALACE.—THE LIBRARY.—THE JESUITS
 COLLEGE.—CHURCHES.—THE ELECTOR.—SCHLEISHEIM.
 POPULATION OF MÜNICH.—INGOLSTADT.—RATISBON.
 THE HALLS OF THE DIET.—THE SCOTCH INSTITUTION.
 NURNBERG.—DECAY OF ITS MANUFACTURES.—ITS PO-
 PULATION.

INNSBRUCK, June 26.

WE left Venice early on the 12th, and proceeded by way of Mestre and Adolo, to Padua, a place still containing a great number of monuments, by which it is distinguished from most of the cities of the North of Italy. It contains some churches, which I have again surveyed with so much real satisfaction that I cannot forbear devoting a page to them. There are certain objects which at every inspection appear more handsome than before, and perhaps make the last time the deepest impression.

Such an object the church of St. Justina appeared to me on this visit. It is well known that this edifice is considered as one of the finest in Italy, and it is perhaps superior to any in dignified simplicity. It is neither encumbered with paintings nor any kind of ornament, but yet contains several good pieces, particularly by Paul Veronese, who painted on the high altar the Martyrdom of St. Justina. The Benedictine convent, to which this church belongs, is a large, stately edifice, likewise containing many admirable performances of the first Italian masters. The library stands in a fine hall; it is copious, and formerly had a great number of manuscripts and old editions; but the best works were carried off by the French, fifteen hundred of whom were at one time stationed in this convent.

The cathedral is almost a new edifice, though it was begun to be built in the 16th century. A great number of architects were

employed upon it, till it was at length completed in the year 1756. This church has its defects, but it is a large and handsome structure, and is recommended by a certain simplicity and grandeur.

The church of St. Anthony is a remarkable building, the interior of which is, however, too much incumbered. What most interested me were the nine bass-reliefs in the chapel of the saint, which I went five times to see, and always fancied I discovered new beauties, though they are not in the most elegant style. The expression is not dignified, and the figures are by no means Grecian. These artists studied nature more than the antique; and hence the truth which is the more attractive the longer you contemplate them. This chapel was begun in the year 1500, by Giov. Minello de Bardi and his son Anthony. Among other paintings in the church is a beautiful piece on a side-altar, representing the martyrdom of St. Agatha, at the moment when her breasts were cut off. The artist Giov. Tiepolo has treated the subject with extraordinary delicacy. The expression in the faces of the saint and her two friends, one of whom covers her mutilated breast with a handkerchief, is truly admirable. The French robbed the saint of all his treasure, which was of immense value; and he suffered them to carry it off without working any miracle. I counted in this church seven altars, at all of which mass was read at the same time. In this manner great numbers of priests are cherished, and the city is poor. I have been in many other churches in Padua; in all of them the priests were reading mass, and in all there were auditors. Hence this city, which has not for many years contained 40,000 souls, is so full of beggars of every description, that you cannot stir without being inexpressibly incommoded by them. Praying and begging appear to be the profession of an innumerable multitude of people, both at Padua and Venice; and indeed the same seems to be the case, more or less, throughout all Italy.

One of the churches most worthy of notice in this city is that of the Padri Eremitani. In the sacristy there is a John the Baptist in the Wilderness, one of the finest paintings I have seen for a long time. It is of very great value, let it be by Guido, as it is said, or by one of his scholars. In my opinion, the artist had in his eye the celebrated John, by Raphael, which is seen at Paris, Florence, Bologna, and Vienna. The convent to which this church belongs once possessed a considerable library, but the French plundered it of the best part of its contents. In the passages of this convent are interred many Protestants, some of whom have small monuments and inscriptions. English, Dutch, Germans, Swedes, &c. here rest quietly together. In the midst of them reposes the Prince of Orange, beneath a simple stone, on which is the following inscription in German:

“ William Frederic George, Prince of Orange Nassau, General of the Germans in Italy, died the 6th of January 1799.”—I frequently saw this prince last winter at Vienna, but little did I expect so soon to tread upon his grave, which I should not have observed, had not our guide pointed it out to me. He went towards the end of the last year, at the age of twenty-four, to assume the command in Italy, and the greatest expectations were entertained of him, when he was carried off by a putrid fever. His death was considered as a great loss at Vienna, and all whom I there heard speak of him, agreed that he was one of the best generals of the age: and a general joy seemed to prevail when he was appointed the commander of the Italian army. It was said in particular, that he was extremely beloved by the army, and that he possessed a peculiar art of conciliating every one's esteem. I was the more struck with the latter trait, as he appeared to me, whenever I had an opportunity of observing him, uncommonly grave, cold, and reserved. Several Dutchmen likewise informed me, that in his native country he was so highly beloved, that, amidst all the violence of parties, those who had been the most bitter against his family, had always made an exception of this young man.

Amidst the great decay of this city, which appears in so many different ways, I could not help wondering at the attention still bestowed on the preservation of the Prato della Valle. This is a place of great extent; which serves for a promenade, occasionally for horse-races, and at the fair-time for a market for horses and horned cattle. The interior, which is appropriated to the use of pedestrians, is surrounded with water; and here are erected a great number of statues, all of which are of common stone, and possess but little excellence as works of art. Every person, foreigners not excepted, enjoys the privilege of erecting statues here; and among the rest there is one placed by the late Lord Cowper, and another by the late King of Poland, in honour of one of his predecessors, who had studied at this University. They in general represent celebrated natives of Padua, Venetians, artists, heroes, and great men of every description.

I have again surveyed the Salone, or the Great Hall in the Senate-house, with much pleasure. As its dimensions are very differently stated by various writers, I took the trouble to measure it, and found that its length within is 257 English feet 9 inches; and its breadth 86 feet 8 inches: so that it is probably the largest hall in Europe not supported by columns or pillars. Westminster-hall is not quite so large, but higher.

I have also visited the Observatory, which occupies one of the lofty towers of the former Castello. The whole establishment is still kept in good order, having a fine stone stair-case, and

a hall painted in fresco. The instruments are preserved in the apartments of the Professor; they are not numerous. The view of the rich, fertile, and highly-cultivated plains, extending farther than the eye can reach on one side, and of the Euganean mountains with the Alps towering behind them on the other, is truly delightful. As all the fields are planted with trees, round which the vines are entwined in festoons, the whole plain resembles a pleasure-garden, in which the projecting steeples of the villages, and the towers of gentlemen's seats, produce a pleasing effect.

From Padua to Slesigo is one post; and the same to Vicenza. This distance we went in less than four hours, and arrived at the latter place before eleven in the forenoon of the 15th of June. The style of grandeur in which thirty or forty private houses of this provincial town are constructed, and some of which were erected before, and some since, the time of the celebrated Palladio, is particularly striking. In the same style they continue to build the few new houses that are to be seen here. In a word, Palladio, who was a native of Vicenza, seems to have given the place peculiarly lofty ideas of architecture, for which the city in other respects appears to be of too little consequence.

We went through the Campo Marzo to the celebrated hill where the Madonna del Monte is preserved, and to which you are conducted by arcades, extending from the city to the church. I was delighted with the beauty of the country, and still more by the prospect which we were shewn from some of the apartments in the convent. Here the rich smiling plain is agreeably varied by verdant hills; at some distance you see pretty lofty hills, and behind these the Alps. It is such a view as can only be seen in Italy. In one of the rooms of this convent I was surprised by a large painting by Paul Veronese, which is equalled by very few that I have seen. It powerfully reminded me of that masterpiece the Marriage of Cana, which the French carried away from St. Giorgio Maggiore. It was concealed at the time of the revolution, and the fathers supposed that the French were ignorant of its being here. These men were extremely polite, and even went so far as to shew us the miraculous picture of the Virgin Mary, painted by St. Luke, for the sake of which the church, the convent, and the arcades, two miles in length, were erected. After they had removed all the coverings and ornaments in which it was enveloped, I beheld, to my surprize, instead of the meagre, dark, and dismal countenance, (such is the character of the portrait ascribed to Luke, who was a wretched painter) a lovely female face, with full cheeks, and a fresh and delicate complexion. I was near enough to judge of the value of the performance, which was not amiss, and bore the charac-

ter of the modern Lombard school. The Madonna formerly possessed a rich treasure of silver, which was plundered by the French, who served all the churches at Vicenza in the same manner.

Instead of returning by the arcades, we took another charming road, which is maintained at the expence of the city, and terminates in an arch by Palladio, which is almost a copy of the Porta Aurea at Pola. The nearer the artist approaches to the Greek style, the more this arch surpasses in beauty that which he erected in the Campo Marzo.

The Palazzo della Ragione, or Senate-house, is by Palladio, of the Doric and Ionic order, and in my opinion, handsomer than that at Padua, though the *Salone* is not by far so large. The palace of the former Podesta was partly consumed by fire, during the last winter, and the damage it received will not very speedily be repaired.

We arrived at Verona on the 16th, at noon. Among the northern cities of Italy this is still one of the principal; and contains many remains of the antiquities of the middle ages, which are interesting. The ancient Roman Amphitheatre at this place differs considerably from that at Pola; the exterior wall of the latter is perfect, while only a small portion of that at Verona is standing, but on the contrary, its interior is in complete preservation. I here witnessed an extraordinary profanation of this noble structure, and which exhibited in a ludicrous light the contrast between ancient grandeur and modern insignificance. In the arena had been erected a small stage, in which a wretched company was performing a farce in broad day-light. The spectators were seated in the open air, on a part of the steps. They and the stage together did not occupy the twentieth part of the whole building, and formed a perfect cariaature on modern times.

An admirer of Shakspeare will scarcely pass through Verona without recollecting Romeo and Juliet. Some still pretend to point out the house inhabited by one of the hostile families; and it was once shewn to me. I entered into conversation with our Cicerone on this subject, and he conducted us to a convent where the coffin into which Juliet was put after her supposed decease, is said to be preserved. We saw this relic in the garden of a convent, where we found a female who was intimately acquainted with the history, and gave us a detailed account of the circumstances. Among the rest, she showed us some holes that had been made in the coffin, that the lady might not want air when she came to herself. What I saw was a coarse piece of workmanship, of stone, and might with as much probability have been a trough, as a coffin. Every thing, however,

proves that the remembrance of this history is still preserved, though nothing authentic is known concerning it.

The distance from Verona to Castelnovo is fourteen miles, and as many more to Desenzano. At Peschiera you have a view of a large portion of the Lake of Guarda, and at Desenzano its whole extent is expanded to the eye. On our arrival at the latter place, I immediately hired a boat, in which we proceeded to what is denominated the Villa of Catullus, near Sarmione. I examined the remains of this structure more minutely than on my former visit, and I have no doubt of its having been an ancient Roman structure. From this villa we went on foot to Sarmione, through a wood of olive-trees, which are said to yield an oil equal to any in Italy. Here we were met by our vessel; we made a long excursion on the lake northward, and saw La Guarda, La Cisi, Peschiera, and many other places, agreeably situated on the shores of the lake.

Leaving Desenzano we proceeded to Volargni and Peri, which is the last Venetian station. Ala, or Alla, is the first on the Austrian side. Roveredo contains many very good and respectable houses; it is a populous place, but I can scarcely persuade myself that it has fourteen thousand inhabitants, as some accounts state. It exhibits that activity and bustle which are the consequence of industry and trade.

Trent appeared to me handsomer than five years ago. It has indeed many good houses, and some that might claim the appellation of palaces. The cathedral is a fine Gothic structure, whose interior is well worth seeing. In the church of St. Maria Maggiore the celebrated ecclesiastical council was held. The picture representing all the holy fathers who composed that great assembly is not only an extraordinary performance, but possesses considerable merit as a work of art.

On the 21st we reached Botzen, or, according to the Italian pronunciation, Bolzano, situated at the confluence of the Eisack and Tulfer. A little below the town the Eisack discharges itself into the Adige and loses its name. These three streams, the surrounding mountains, the luxuriant vegetation, the high cultivation of the country, and the innumerable houses scattered over the mountains and hills, render the scenery about Botzen pleasing and interesting. Botzen is a place of considerable importance, and perhaps the principal commercial town in Tyrol; but it is neither handsome nor populous. The number of inhabitants is less than ten thousand.

Brixen contains some good houses, but has not much of the appearance of a town, rather resembling the village-like capitals of the democratic Swiss cantons. The episcopal palace is a capacious building, but in other respects is not worthy of notice.

The principal church is an elegant structure, and remarkable for being embellished almost entirely by Tyrolese artists. You here find paintings by all the Unterbergers, of whom, if I am not mistaken, there were four. Christopher, known at Rome by the appellation of Don Cristoforo, was patronized by Pius VI. and executed most of the decorations for the Museo Pio-Clementino. He was inferior in talent to his relation, who died last year at Vienna, and who received a thousand ducats for his Hebe. This church also contains a good picture of the crucifixion, by Schöpf, a pupil of Knoller, who is still alive and resides at Innsbruck.

Mittewald, the next stage from Brixen, lies in a very narrow valley, and is rendered still more gloomy by the black woods of pines by which the steep mountains on either side are covered; On arriving at Sterzingen this narrow valley opens, and forms a plain occupied by fine pastures and meadows. Compared with this scene, the lofty mountains inclosing this valley, which are still covered with snow, exhibit a dreary appearance.

From Sterzingen to Brenner, a village on the summit of the mountain of the same name, is a distance of nine miles. This mountain cannot be compared with the Loibel, either for height, the difficulty of the passage, or for the road which leads across it. From the post-house at Brenner to Steinach is nine miles: the next station is Schönberg, a village on the hill, whose charming situation was in a lively manner impressed on my memory from a former visit. I know of no spot out of Switzerland that so nearly resembles the Alps of that country: the same charming verdure, the same luxuriant vegetation, the same universal fertility and careful cultivation, together with the same respectable appearance of the houses and their inhabitants. This picture is heightened by the magnificent view of those immense crags which bound the horizon on several sides, and never have any other covering than snow. The vast range of mountains to the north of Innsbruck may here be seen so distinctly, and appears so near, that even the most experienced eye may be deceived, and the spectator can scarcely imagine that he is separated from them by the most extensive valley in all Tyrol, together with the town of Innsbruck.

I passed three days very agreeably at Innsbruck, which is situated in one of the most delightful vallies in Europe. It is a very handsome place, containing about twelve thousand inhabitants; and as it is the capital of the province and the seat of the Regency, the traveller always finds some society, composed of noblemen and officers, civil and military. The court contributes very little to the gaiety or amusement of the inhabitants; for the Arch-duchess Elizabeth lives in a very quiet and retired manner. She inhabits an elegant structure, erected by Maria Theresa, and

designed by that princess for her own residence, after the death of her husband. The lower part is occupied with the offices of the regency, and the first story with the apartments of the arch-duchess, the decorations and furniture of which are very simple. The garden contiguous to the palace affords an agreeable promenade, and a rising ground in it commands a charming view of the country. The celebrated bronze equestrian statue of Leopold V. was erected two years since in the front of the palace. Among all the modern performances of this kind I think I never saw a finer horse. No person in the place could inform me by what artist it was executed, and yet it is said that he is a native of Tyrol. I cannot believe it to be the same who made all the metal statues in the Franciscan church; which, though not destitute of merit, are far inferior to this beautiful production.

The most remarkable objects in the Franciscan church, next to the statues, are the twenty-four bass-reliefs in white marble, on the tomb of Maximilian I. They are by Colin, a native of Mechlin, and bear the date of the year 1566. They are fine, but exhibit evident marks of the German or Dutch school, and attest that the artist was not an Italian. The college formerly belonging to the Jesuits is now occupied by the University, and contains the lecture-rooms, together with a handsome library, which is daily open, and has a very convenient reading-room.

The gate of the town towards Schönberg is very beautiful, but it is an imitation of the triumphal arch at Rome. Almost all the works of this kind that possess any merit are imitations of the antique; but those parts which are original, and deviate from the style of the ancients, are in general destitute of taste.

I again paid a visit to the Castle of Ambras, about four miles from this place, in a fine situation. The most valuable articles preserved there were packed up two years since, on the approach of the French, and have not been replaced. You may, however, still see the remarkable collection of armour that belonged to a great number of princes and heroes of the 15th and 16th century. The castle itself is now converted into a military hospital, and is filled with wounded soldiers. The officers with whom I became acquainted at Innspruck, complained bitterly of the want of good surgeons in the Imperial army, whose places were supplied by barbers' apprentices and ignorant bunglers, who cut off many a limb, and sacrificed many a brave man, that superior talents might have preserved.

On another side of the town is situated the charming convent of Weillau, near which the Sil forms a pleasing, but not large fall. The adjacent country is grand and picturesque. We likewise visited the little country-seat of the former princes of Tyrol, which is a very insignificant structure, but commands a noble view.

LETTER XXVII.

SALZBURG.—THE MÖNCHSBERG.—THE CAPUCINERBERG.—MUNICH.—THE PALACE.—THE LIBRARY.—THE JESUITS' COLLEGE.—CHURCHES.—THE ELECTOR.—SCHLEISHEIM. POPULATION OF MUNICH.—INGOLSTADT.—RATISBON. THE HALLS OF THE DIET.—THE SCOTCH INSTITUTION. NURNBERG.—DECAY OF ITS MANUFACTURES.—ITS POPULATION.

Nurnberg, July 26, 1799.

THOSE who travel to enjoy the beauties of nature will scarcely be able to find, out of Switzerland, such a continued series of pleasing scenes as those we have traversed in the last ten weeks in Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Venice, and Tyrol.

To a great distance from Innspruck the valley continues to be nearly of the same breadth; that is, about two miles. It then becomes narrow, widening at intervals, till you reach the plain in which Salzburg is situated.

Salzburg is, in my opinion, one of the handsomest, cleanest, and neatest towns in Germany. The great number of good and respectable houses, the many fine streets, the numerous public and private fountains, several churches, the palace of the prince, the stables, riding-house, in a word, every thing evinces that this place has long been under a wise government, which is seconded by the industry and enterprize of its subjects. The town is small, but most of the houses have four stories, besides the ground-floor, many five, and some even six. Its population is reckoned at sixteen thousand persons.

But what renders Salzburg perfectly unique, is the rock which incloses it like a wall, and is called the Mönchsberg; so that formerly there were only two entrances to the city, namely, where the two extremities of this range of rock joined the river. In the present century one of the archbishops formed a handsome passage through the rock, upwards of four hundred feet in length, twenty in breadth, and thirty in height. It is a noble work, and the architectural ornaments, hewn out of the rock at each gate or entrance, are in a good taste.

What was the original form of this singular rock cannot now be discovered, it has been gradually worked away, so that it is now nearly perpendicular. It served as a quarry to the inhabitants, who hewed from it, but in a regular manner, the stone they wanted. The principal buildings in this city are constructed with it; and people are at this moment employed in reducing it to a form more nearly approaching a perpendicular line. It therefore now forms the wall of the city, and no town of anti-

quity ever had one so thick, so strong, and so magnificent. It must be in many places six, seven, or eight hundred feet in thickness; its height varies, in my opinion, from two to three hundred feet. Above are houses, gardens, meadows, trees, and even corn-fields, a magazine and fortifications, besides the citadel, which stands on a point still more elevated called the Schlossberg. On this rock any person may walk; and a more agreeable promenade, and more enchanting view cannot easily be conceived. You thence overlook the whole town, the river to the distance of many miles, and the whole rich and charming plain, interspersed with many villages, and innumerable detached houses, all of which have an air of cleanliness and comfort that delights me.

On the opposite side of the river, which is called both Salza and Salzach, is an eminence of considerable height, denominated the Capucinerberg, inaccessible on one side from its steepness, and defended by a wall on the other. This mountain is in fact only an inclosed wood, on the most elevated part of which stands a castle, that commands the most delightful view of any spot in the vicinity of Salzburg. When I saw this small, and now neglected edifice, with the arsenal as it is called, and its paltry fortifications, I said that it must have been built by some archbishop who was afraid of his subjects. Upon a nearer approach, I actually found an inscription over the entrance, which states, that one Paris, Count of Lodron, was driven out of the town, and retired to this place.

We left Salzburg on the 9th of July, and proceeded to Wasserburg, a distance of forty-seven miles, where we passed the night. This place is situated on a peninsula, formed by the winding of the river Inn, which you cross over a handsome bridge to arrive at the town. On the 10th we had thirty-three miles to go, through a perfectly level country, to reach Munich. In this tract of country I remarked a peculiar method of building houses. The upper story and roof are first finished, and are propped up by posts; the lower part is then constructed, commonly of stones and wood, or sometimes only of stone. I had before noticed the same mode of proceeding in the archbishopric of Salzburg.

Munich is accounted a fine city, and the many good houses it contains justify its claim to that character; but I scarcely know a place of the same extent that has so little architectural beauty to recommend it. Even the great electoral palace, or, as it is here termed, the Residence, looks more like barracks, a house of industry, or a large hospital, than the habitation of a prince who has two millions of subjects. The gallery of paintings, the most interesting objects contained in this palace, was packed up on the

renewal of hostilities, and the pictures have not been again replaced. The cabinet of curiosities was not packed up, and I have again seen with peculiar pleasure, among other things which it contains, an accurate model of Trajan's column at Rome. The ground is of lapis lazuli, and the bass-reliefs of bronze. The work bears the name of Levadier, a French artist of reputation whom I knew at Rome, with the date of the year 1780; but the bass-reliefs, which are the principal part of the work, are by Bartolom. Hecker, who has likewise engraved on it his name and the date 1774, in an almost imperceptible manner.

I shall say nothing of the relics, and their costly cases, preserved in the collection in the chapel, but I cannot omit mentioning a small bass-relief which may easily be overlooked, and is yet of great value. It represents the taking of Christ from the cross, in wax, by Michael Angelo. It is inconceivable how that artist could transfuse his grand manner into so small a piece; the largest figures of which are not four inches in length. It was probably the model of an altar-piece he had to execute in marble; but be that as it may, it is an admirable performance.

In the imperial apartments, as they are called, the tapestry deserves particular notice, both on account of its beauty, and because it is manufactured in the country. It is impossible to forbear smiling at the puerile vanity which could induce a prince of Bavaria to establish a manufacture, to support which, even in luxurious Paris, the king was obliged to make considerable sacrifices. As it still exists, I afterwards went to see it, and found that Sentini, a very able artist, is at the head of it. I can, indeed, perceive but little difference between its best productions and those of Paris, but the prices here are higher, and no more than ten persons are employed.

The Elector's library does not stand in the palace, but in the college formerly belonging to the Jesuits, where it occupies a handsome building, and is well regulated. It is said to consist of above 100,000 volumes, and to contain a great number of editions of 1400, and some valuable manuscripts. I here saw the first edition of Ptolemy, with maps, which is very scarce, and many other works that were extremely interesting to me. The reading-rooms, of which there are several, are spacious and commodious, and are open to the public in certain hours each day.

In the Jesuits' college there are likewise several saloons, containing various collections, and in one of them the Academy of Sciences holds its meetings. Another is occupied by physical instruments, mechanical machines and models, a collection of minerals, and some subjects in natural history.

I likewise saw the treasure in the Jesuits' church, and must

confess that it hurt my feelings to behold such a vast quantity of gold, silver, and precious stones, amassed without purpose or advantage. A few articles, such as cups, and other church-utensils, are distinguished for the excellence of the workmanship, but all the rest are destitute of taste. I saw whole chests filled with silver statues, some as large as the life; and yet this treasure is not by far so considerable as it once was. Some years since it was plundered by a knight of Malta, and recently sustained another diminution, when the late elector appropriated to his own use a considerable sum of money belonging to the church. The government will sooner or later again be obliged to have recourse to it, as well as to the other rich convents which abound in this country; but the Bavarian is not yet sufficiently prepared for such a measure, which at present might be productive of disagreeable consequences.

Among the churches in this city, there are five which I should recommend to the notice of the traveller. The church of the Blessed Virgin is a large, ancient structure, and not destitute of merit, and St. Peter's contains some things that are worth seeing. The church of the Gaetani would be a splendid monument of architecture, were not the interior so incumbered with ornament, that the grandeur of the plan and the style in which it is built, are totally destroyed. In this church is the burial-place of the electoral family, but they have no monuments. The Jesuits' church, now belonging to the Maltese, is a handsome structure, the magnitude and simplicity of whose interior inspires respect. The same cannot be said of the exterior, nor can I admire the metal statues, or rather groupes, over the doors. Lastly, the large church of the Augustines contains a large picture by Tintoretto, and among the many others there are about two more which are worthy of notice.

The trade of Munich is of very little importance, and manufactures will not flourish in this country. The few articles made here are dear; the great privileged manufactory near the palace ceases to exist, and the buildings are now employed as barracks.

You know that the present elector of Bavaria is a younger brother of the late duke of Deux-Ponts, and that he was once colonel of a German regiment in France. Many people expect of the new sovereign various alterations for the better. Some have already been begun, but I am informed that the great body of the people are dissatisfied with them, though these measures are conducive to their real interest. It was certainly a wise step of the elector to suppress all the commanderies of the order of Malta founded by his predecessor; but the emperor of Russia thought otherwise, and obliged the elector to restore them. His interference has been so effectual, that the electoral prince is

appointed grand-prior of the order, an office before held by the prince of Brezenheim, the natural son of the late elector, on whose account the commanderies were in part founded.

The late elector had three natural children; two daughters and the abovementioned prince, for whom he richly provided. A great portion of the money which, with the permission of the Pope, he took from the churches and convents, is said to have been expended on them. The new elector could not possibly see these children with pleasure: the Prince of Brezenheim has already quitted the country, and is said to have entered into the imperial service. The finances of the country are in the lowest state; the late prince was no economist, and shamefully neglected the army. It is asserted, that, at the time of his death, there were not 15,000 troops in all his dominions.

I was a few days since at Schleisheim, a magnificent country-seat, twelve miles from this place, which was once celebrated for its gallery of paintings, that were removed eighteen years since to Munich. These have been replaced with fresh pieces; and the collection might again be called important, if the value of a gallery consisted in the number of pieces it contained. This extensive building has not been inhabited for upwards of twenty years.

The architecture, though not a master-piece, is infinitely preferable to the tasteless mass of building composing the palace of Nymphenburg. To the latter, however, belong large gardens and water-works, of which the former mansion is almost entirely destitute. The situation of these two palaces cannot be commended, both standing in the vast plain which surrounds Munich on every side, and is neither distinguished for fertility nor cultivation. It is wonderful how little every thing around Munich indicates a place that is the capital of a country containing two millions of inhabitants. Very few country-houses of any description, large woods of fir, vast pastures interspersed with arid sands, and a few uninclosed corn fields—such is the level tract round Munich; interrupted only by the gigantic range of the distant Alps, separating Bavaria from Tyrol. These mountains, partly covered with eternal snows, form an interesting boundary towards the south, but are visible only when the weather is perfectly clear.

Professor Westenrieder, in his description of Munich published in 1783, states the number of all the individuals belonging to Munich at 40,379, including the electoral palaces of Nymphenburg, Schleisheim, and Fürstenried. Since that period the population is said to have been considerably increased, particularly by the many inhabitants of the Palatinate whom the war on the Rhine has driven hither; but that the present number of

inhabitants should exceed 50,000, as some assert, I cannot believe. They ground their opinion on the extravagant rise in the rent of houses, and the difficulty of procuring lodgings, without reflecting, that in a town containing only 1,488 houses, an increase of a few thousands makes a great difference. Munich is the residence of a sovereign prince and of the most distinguished persons in the country, and many very large buildings are entirely occupied by a single family.

From Munich we proceeded to Ingoldstadt, a distance of forty-three miles. Ingoldstadt is on the whole a handsome town, with a great number of good structures, among which are some fine churches and convents. I was particularly pleased with the principal parish-church, which, from the date engraved on it, I suppose to have been built in 1425. It is a large edifice, in a nobly simple Gothic style. The Franciscan convent and its gardens are worthy of notice. The Hall of Assembly, as it is termed, is a large building richly ornamented and covered with paintings. The style of the embellishments is bad, for they have more of glitter and show than of real beauty; yet it is such an edifice as you do not meet with in any Protestant university. The number of students here is very considerable, but I cannot think they amount to 2,000, as I was informed. The population of the place was stated to be between 7 and 8,000, which I likewise believe to be exaggerated.

Our conductor showed us a great number of images celebrated for the miracles they have wrought; among the rest a Virgin Mary of stone in the principal parish-church, a wretched figure of Christ in wood, which the artist threw into the Danube, because he was dissatisfied with the execution, but floating against the stream, it was taken up and placed in a public situation, where it gave a student, while at confession, a box on the ear, probably for concealing one or two of his sins: lastly, a Madonna, which the Jews threw into the Danube after cutting off her head. She, however, floated, together with the head, against the stream, till she was fished out with many solemnities, and a chapel was erected in honour of her.

You may easily suppose I should not be at the trouble to write these absurdities, had I not observed that they are generally believed by the people. The ceiling of one of the churches is painted with the incidents of the latter story, in four compartments. A traveller must now and then introduce traits of this kind, because many Protestants who do not travel, are incapable of conceiving what darkness here and there prevails in the south of Germany.

Leaving Ingoldstadt, we first proceeded nine miles along the north bank of the Danube, which we crossed at Vohburg by

means of a miserable wooden bridge. This town, as well as Neustadt, is of no importance; they have no trade, no industry, and are inhabited by people who principally subsist by agriculture. The country gradually loses its uniformity, and here and there rises into hills of tolerable height. Between Saal and Abbach there are some pretty, romantic spots, perpendicular rocks which rise on the shore of the Danube, and some wood; and the banks of the river, which were before low, now become more interesting.

I expected very little of Ratisbon, and found it even below my expectations. Here is not one handsome street, not a single regular square, no sign of life, activity, or opulence. Ratisbon has no manufactures of consequence, and its trade appears to be just sufficient to supply the wants of the place. It may be thought that the great number of foreign ministers would give the city a certain degree of life and elegance, or at least that some equipages would make their appearance in the streets; but excepting those of the prince of Tour and Taxis, you may walk about a whole day without seeing a single gentleman's carriage. The population is estimated at 24,000 souls, but I think this calculation too high.

The Ambassadors' Street, which is so called because many of the foreign ministers reside in it, is narrow, dull, and empty. Every thing here wears a dead and forlorn appearance, and this is the case with buildings which ought to be the most distinguished. The house of the Prince of Tour and Taxis was consumed by fire seven years since, and is not rebuilt, and he now resides in one which he rents of the Abbot of St. Emeran. He lives in some degree like a prince, to judge from the number of horses and carriages he keeps, but all around the house looks so dreary and forsaken, that it resembles a nobleman's mansion which the proprietor has not visited for many years.

The princely Abbot of Emeran resides in another part of the abbey, which appears equally forlorn, and where nothing indicates the mansion of a prelate who possesses very considerable revenues. To this abbey belongs a copious library, containing, however, very few of the best modern works. It is principally composed of biblical works, the Fathers, and all that belongs to the Roman Catholic religion. Of the classics there are very few; but it has some of the *principes*, as they are denominated, or editions of 1400, and a considerable collection of manuscripts, many of which are said to have been written between the 8th and 11th century.

The library of the Prince of Tour and Taxis is of much greater utility to the public. It stands in a building at a considerable distance from his dwelling. It is open to the public for

several hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and even at any other time you may obtain a sight of it.

The cathedral is a very ancient Gothic structure, and is one of the finest I ever saw. The exterior is rather heavy, but the inside is grand and dignified. The bass-relief, representing the multiplication of the loaves, is more celebrated than it deserves to be. Of the other churches, none is worthy of particular notice.

The halls in which the Diets of the Empire are held are antiquated, mean, and gloomy. They are six in number, and all of them have small, round, dark windows. It seems as if they were never broken, else I know not how they could be replaced, for I never saw any panes of glass resembling these, even in the most wretched cottages. The best that can be said of these apartments is, that there is nothing about them which does not correspond with the other parts. The smoky walls, the tapestry, tables, chairs, windows, floors, altogether make the completest whole of the kind that I ever saw. It is as old, as worn, and as decayed as the constitution of the German Empire.

I went to see the *Scots*, as it is denominated. This singular institution is only for natives of Scotland, who bring over young people, mostly boys, from that country, for the purpose of educating them. I enquired the number of persons it contained, and was informed that at present it amounted only to seven, and that a certain proportion of them is from time to time sent back to Scotland to do the service there, that is, to propagate the Roman Catholic faith. It appears to me that they continue to maintain an intimate connection with Great Britain; and therefore what Nicolai says concerning this institution may be perfectly correct.

The bridge over the Danube, which is of stone, and upwards of one thousand feet in length, enjoys some celebrity among structures of the kind, but it cannot be compared with that at Dresden, and is even far inferior to the bridge at Prague. It is so narrow that two coaches can scarcely pass each other, and the pedestrians are obliged to go in the carriage-way, because the foot-path, paved with flag-stones, is so narrow, that one person cannot walk on it without rubbing his clothes against the wall which supports the balustrade.

We quitted Ratisbon on the 24th of July. Our road led us first through a small part of the county of Neuburg, and soon afterwards through the Upper Palatinate. This province is not better cultivated than a great portion of the duchy of Bavaria, but is more pleasing and interesting than that level tract, being composed of moderate hills, which are more or less cultivated, and covered with wood. Schambach, Taswang, and Teining, where we changed horses, are mere villages, and Postbauer, where we passed the night, is an insignificant place. In this

whole stretch of forty-three miles there is but one small town, Neumarkt, and even this differs but little from the villages, excepting in its style of building.

On the 25th, after proceeding about half an hour, we quitted the Upper Palatinate, and soon discovered, by the Prussian eagle, what country we had entered. We changed horses at Feucht, a small town in the territory of Nurnberg, but which, as well as all the country on this side, from the frontiers of Anspach, is in the hands of the Prussians.

That Nurnberg is a decayed city every one knows, and that its population has been for many years decreasing, is evinced by the grass that grows in almost all the streets, the few persons whom you see in them, and the low price of house-rent, while that of other articles is continually rising.

The misfortunes of Nurnberg have proceeded from other causes than the mal-administration of its magistrates, of which its inhabitants have so bitterly complained, and must partly be ascribed to some circumstances for which there is no remedy. These people formerly enjoyed a kind of monopoly of the principal articles of their manufacture, I mean the various kinds of hardware: but other countries have become more civilized, and the same articles are now made by the artizans of every town in Germany. As the wares of Nurnberg were, however, either better or cheaper, this city still retained a certain proportion of the trade; but the English have gradually inundated the half of Europe with their commodities, and there are few who do not prefer the wares of Birmingham to those of Nurnberg. The manufacturers of the latter place did not accommodate themselves to the times, but retained their old fashions and forms, while the world required something more elegant, or at least something different. Many of the articles made here stand so low in the estimation of people of taste, as to have become proverbial.

Notwithstanding its decay, this city exhibits many remains of former times, capable of amusing a traveller for a few days. Perhaps the ancient state of the arts in Germany cannot be studied so well any where as here. Among the modern collections, that of Mr. Frauenholz is very considerable, and his latest purchases comprehend many valuable articles. There are also many fine pieces in his collection of pictures. The city library, several of the churches and fountains, and some of the magazines of Nurnberg wares of every description, afforded me partly amusement, and partly information. But in his walks through the town the traveller should not forget either to furnish himself with small coin, or to arm his heart with three-fold brass, for he is every where pursued by beggars. The once-celebrated arsenal has been stripped both by the French and Austrians.

The population of Nurnberg was stated to me at 36,000 souls. When I expressed my doubts of the accuracy of this statement, my informant assured me that he knew it for a fact, and that it had been communicated to him by a member of the magistracy. This city is, indeed, large; but when I reflect that the suburbs have been cut off from it, and see the grass growing in all the streets, I am convinced that there cannot be 30,000 persons within the walls, and I even doubt whether the number of the inhabitants exceeds 28,000.

LETTER XXVII.

BAMBERG.—THE NEW HOSPITAL.—THE ENGLISH NUNS.—
 WÜRZBURG.—THE PALACE.—THE JULIUS HOSPITAL.—
 THE SCOTCH COLLEGE.—HANAU.—FRANKFURT ON THE
 MAYNE—DARMSTADT—WETZLAR—GISSEN.—MARBURG.
 —THE HATZ. — CLAUSTHAL. — ANDREASBERG. — THE
 BROCKEN.—BLANKENBURG.—WERNIGERODE.—GOSS-
 LAR.—JOURNEY FROM BRUNSWICK TO HAMBURG,
 THROUGH ZELL.

HAMBURGH, *August 29, 1799.*

WE left Nurnberg early in the morning of the 27th of July, and proceeded nine miles, to Erlangen, a handsome, regular town, the streets of which intersect each other at right angles. Some are very spacious, and have a great number of good stone houses. Its population is about 9,000 souls. The castle is a solid structure of simple architecture, and every thing about it has a very clean and pleasing appearance. It has for many years been the residence of the widow of the late margrave of Bayreuth. The buildings belonging to the University are not worthy of notice.

Between Nurnberg and Erlangen the country is, without exception, level; but at the latter place it begins to rise into moderate hills, and continues the same till you enter the territory of Bamberg. The stage from Erlangen to Furchheim is a wretched, sandy road, and this part of Bayreuth contains much barren land. There is, however, a still greater proportion in that part of Nurnberg of which the king of Prussia has taken possession, between Postbauer and that city. Notwithstanding the sterility of the soil, the tract between Erlangen and Furchheim is well cultivated.

Furchheim is a wretched, filthy place. The road from it to Bamberg traverses a charming, well cultivated country; the hills are crowned with woods, below which, on the declivities, the villages appear to great advantage.

Bamberg may be distinguished at a great distance, and its steeples excite a favorable idea of its importance. It is, in fact,

a very handsome town, with many very spacious streets, and a great number of good houses, some of which are of free-stone. The bishop's residence, though an irregular structure, the church which formerly belonged to the Jesuits, the antique cathedral, some of the other churches, the fine newly-erected hospital, the seminary, the large Benedictine convent, the town-house, several of the houses of the canons, besides many others, would do honour to any city.

The imperial hall, as it is called, in the residence of the prince-bishop, and some other good apartments, are worth seeing. The collection of paintings is neither numerous nor very valuable; it, however, contains some good pieces: others were carried off by the French; and others, as I was informed, have been sent away for security.

The new hospital deserves particular notice; I never saw any institution of the kind that afforded me such pleasure. This handsome and commodious, but at the same time solid and simple structure, was erected by the late bishop of Bamberg and Wurzburg, the excellent Erthal, at his own expence, for one hundred and fifty patients; but his circumstances, I had almost said his poverty, which was the consequence of his beneficence, prevented him from endowing it. Other benefactors have since bequeathed legacies, or contributed sums of money to the institution, and the remainder of its revenue consists of one kreuzer (something less than a halfpenny) per week, which every apprentice and domestic, male and female, at Bamberg is obliged to pay. If any individual out of these classes fall sick, he receives in this house till he recovers, attendance, medicine, board, lodging, and even cloathing; for all patients brought to this place receive the necessary linen and clothes suitable for persons in their situation, which they wear as long as they stay here. On their recovery they give up these clothes, and receive back their own. All sick foreigners unable to maintain themselves are also received, without regard to country or religion. Patients are likewise taken who pay for their attendance and cure, and the reputation of the house seems to be so firmly established, that many persons of rank and fortune prefer this institution to an inn or private house, exactly in the same manner as many a lady of rank at Copenhagen chuses to lye-in at the public lying-in-hospital of that city.

The English Nuns, so called from their foundress, who is said to have been a native of England, likewise form an excellent institution. They instruct gratuitously children of their own sex, in reading, writing, the principles of religion, and the German language. Though nuns, they are not bound by any severe rules, but are at liberty to walk about in the city, and to visit their friends. They are at present ten in number. They receive nothing from the house but board and lodging, so that they must

possess some property, besides which they occasionally receive small presents from the parents of the children; for those who frequent their school are by no means of the lowest class.

The church formerly belonging to the Jesuits, like most of the buildings of that order, is handsome; but this observation is in general more applicable to the interior than to the exterior. The other churches that I have seen are worthy of little notice; but yet those who study the progress of the arts in Germany will here and there meet with something interesting. The large Benedictine convent of St. Michael is situated on an eminence, and when viewed at a distance is a great embellishment to the town. It affords a fine view of the country round Bamberg.

The river Rednitz, or Regnitz, is navigable at this place for vessels of considerable burthen, and falls into the Main about four miles below the city. A certain degree of activity and opulence may be observed at Bamberg. The late bishop taught his subjects many things of which they were ignorant, and excited among them an industry which is very rare in countries under ecclesiastical control. Bamberg is much more lively than the capitals of most spiritual sovereigns, and pretty populous; but whether the statement of the number of its inhabitants at 24,000 be not exaggerated, I shall not pretend to decide.

From Bamberg we proceeded by the way of Wiesentheit and Dettelbach to Würzburg. When I tell you that I know of no town-residence of any sovereign which forms such a beautiful and magnificent whole as that of the bishop of Würzburg, you will doubtless be astonished; but it is literally true. It is executed from one complete plan, and is perfectly regular, the proportion of all its parts are admirably preserved, and it is open on all sides. What particularly contributes to the beauty of this place is the garden, in which two sides of it stand. The fortifications of the city that compose part of the garden, are employed to great advantage; and that portion of them opposite to the principal front of the palace, rises in the form of a semi-amphitheatre. The whole is kept in excellent order, and has an appearance of opulence and splendour, combined with the cheerful and the agreeable.

Not a fifth part of the apartments of the palace are occupied by the prince, the rest are appropriated to the residence of relations or strangers, or principally consist of state-rooms for emperors, kings, and princes, very few of whom, it is true, ever visit this city. The remainder are occupied by the domestics, or by the officers of the regency, or are vacant. One saloon is particularly distinguished for its splendour, its magnitude, and admirable proportions, and was painted by Tie-

polo, more of whose performances are to be seen at this place. But I cannot consider the celebrated stair-case as a master-piece of architecture; the style appears to me neither grand nor correct. The architect was Neumann, a native of Würzburg, who had resided a considerable time at Paris.

If I regard the palace of the prince as out of all proportion to the country, I must not omit to add that this city contains an hospital which is not less magnificent in its way. The Julius hospital is a very extensive edifice, having sixty-five windows in each story, besides another range of building of the same length behind, and two smaller at each end, so that the whole forms a vast oblong square, inclosing a court of proportionable magnitude.

The Cathedral, the Jesuits' Church, the Observatory, and the City Library, are all buildings or institutions that are worthy of notice. The many pictures suspended in the cathedral, though not master-pieces, are superior to those which you commonly meet with in Germany. The Taking of Christ from the Cross is a fine performance, by Sandrart. Some are by Fesel, an artist worthy of a better fate than to live unknown at Würzburg. I went to see him, and learned that he is a scholar of Mengs, and studied a long time at Rome. Besides several pictures, I likewise saw some good drawings of his. This city has also a sculptor, but who for want of employment works but little in marble. Many of the statues and decorations of the fountains at this place are by him, and he makes small figures of alabaster.

In this city there is likewise a Scotch college, all the members of which must be natives of Scotland. This institution has existed several centuries; for the Scotch have long had a footing in these parts, because their countryman St. Kilian lies buried here.

We left Würzburg on the first of August, and did not meet with a single town between that place and Aschaffenburg, a distance of forty-seven miles. Aschaffenburg is neither large nor handsome, and the country about it is very far from answering the descriptions I had read of it. From Aschaffenburg we proceeded to Frankfurt by way of Hanau, where the present Landgrave of Hesse Cassel resided for a long time when hereditary prince. When his father changed his religion, Hanau devolved to the prince as his own property, and on this account he did many things for the place which are not usually done for a mere provincial town. For the last two years it has been the residence of the present hereditary prince. The reigning landgrave still has apartments in the palace, but they are unoccupied; for when he comes to this part of the country, he lives in a small building at Wilhelmsbad.

We arrived at Frankfurt on the 3d. What gave me the most pleasure in this place is, the increase of its trade, opulence, and industry, particularly as I had before seen scarcely any but towns which were either at a stand, or in a progressive state of decay. On the contrary, Frankfurt, since I saw it six years ago, has increased in population and opulence. Two hundred new houses have since been built, or are now building. At the present moment they are engaged in building a whole quarter, comprising a square and about eighteen streets, many of the houses of which are erected, but, though not habitable, are all let.

The Jews, who were formerly confined in a single, miserable street, are to be allowed more room. I went to see their street, and found it still in ruins. You recollect that three years ago a fire broke out in it, and that to stop the conflagration the other houses were pulled down. The Jews are now dispersed all over the city, which they like so well, that they are in no hurry to rebuild their ruined habitations.

The new buildings which have within the last six years been erected at Frankfurt, display more taste and a superior style of architecture, than those constructed in different parts of Germany during the same period. The two Calvinist churches, the German as well the French, are handsome structures both within and without. What an alteration in the spirit of the times! There are now two edifices for the Calvinist worship in this city, where a few years since the members of that persuasion were obliged to go for that purpose to a village four miles from Frankfurt.

From Frankfurt we made an excursion to Darmstadt, situated at the distance of about fourteen miles, in an agreeable but level country. Darmstadt does not contain much to distinguish it, either as a town or as the residence of a sovereign prince. The palace occupies a great extent of ground, but scarcely half of it is covered with building. The English Garden is not worthy of notice. One of the landgravines is interred in it, but her monument consists of nothing but a hillock, with a small marble urn placed upon it by Frederic II. of Prussia.

Darmstadt, however, contains a building which is not equalled by any of the kind that I have seen in Europe. This is the Exercise House, which is not supported by any column or pillar. Its length was stated to me to be 314 feet, and its breadth 157 feet, so that neither Westminster Hall, nor the Salone at Padua, can be placed in any kind of comparison with it.

We left Frankfurt early on the 9th, and arrived by four in

the afternoon at Wetzlar, though the distance is forty-two miles and the roads none of the best.

Wetzlar has not one handsome, strait, or level street. You go continually up and down hill; the pavement is bad, and the houses are small and mean. The Lahn runs through the town, and traverses below it a very agreeable valley. Wetzlar has an ancient church, and which in its kind may be called handsome. I think it a specimen of the earliest period of architecture in Germany.

On the 10th we passed through two universities, Giessen and Marburg. The former is a wretched place, and the number of students does not exceed one hundred. Marburg, though by no means a fine town, is far superior to Giessen, and the University is more considerable, and contains two hundred students. The country round it surpasses any I have seen since we left Salzburg.

We passed the night at the village of Jessberg, and proceeded on the 11th to Wavern, twelve miles, and to Cassel, fourteen miles. Wavern is a wretched village, like most of those in the territories of Hesse.

From Cassel, by way of Münden and Gottingen, to Nordheim, was a country with which I was well acquainted, having traversed it only fifteen months ago. From Nordheim a direct road leads to Brunswick, by way of Seesen, Lutter, &c. but those who wish to see the Harz, go from Nordheim to Osterrode, Clausthal, &c. The country between Seesen and Clausthal is a miserable tract, like the greatest part of the Harz, at least as far as I have seen.

Clausthal is a very neat town, where I found in a high degree that cleanliness which I have so often remarked in mountainous countries. The houses are mostly of wood, but are in general painted, so that their appearance is not amiss. As it is the capital of the Harz, it is the seat of several colleges, and the residence of a number of officers, most of whom have handsome houses. The town has neither walls nor gates. The population of Clausthal does not exceed 9000 souls, most of whom subsist by working the mines. The mint which supplies all the Hanoverian dominions, is established at this place.

The country around Andreasberg is still more barren than that near Clausthal, and I found it much less romantic than I had been taught to expect. The houses too are far inferior, and the place contains no more than 1000 inhabitants. Not long ago great part of it was destroyed by fire, but has been rebuilt with wood. It is 1773 Paris feet above the level of the sea.

As the journey over the Brocken can only be made on foot, we set off soon after four in the morning of the 16th of August from Andreasberg, with a guide. I expected to find a beaten road over the mountain, or at least a kind of foot-path, but soon discovered how indispensably necessary it is to be accompanied by a guide, for in many places not the least tract was percep-

tible; and we met with so many boggy places, that our feet and legs were soon quite wet. We met with a boy collecting a particular kind of moss which grows on the mountain, and which is said to be employed with advantage in consumptions. The upper part of the Brocken is entirely bare, and is such a shapeless mass, that it appeared to me the ugliest mountain I had ever seen. It has nothing romantic or picturesque, and no masses of rock of various forms. The whole is a vast, clumsy cone, covered with stones, between which are scanty patches of grass, with dry moss, and here and there a low shrub. Of plants or herbs there are very few.

When we had reached a certain elevation, we arrived all at once at a broad and tolerably good carriage-road, constructed a year and a half ago by the Count of Wernigerode, for the conveyance of wood and other materials requisite for his new building for the accommodation of travellers. The mountain is annually visited by a great number of persons from the circumjacent provinces, and they have hitherto been crowded into two rooms, forming the principal part of two huts, which are half sunk below the surface of the earth. The new edifice has in front eight windows and three doors, and will contain twelve apartments, all of which are on the ground-floor, on account of the incessant storms and other circumstances. The walls are four feet thick, entirely of stone, joined with moss, and not with mortar, for lime would be an article too expensive on these heights. The cellar will be entirely blasted out of the rock, and the house is intended to be completed in the course of next year.

As the summit of the Brocken is not pointed, but presents a broad, flat surface, the natural consequence is, that it conceals the scenery immediately surrounding it, at least for the distance of two miles. You have therefore no grand or distinct object sufficiently near for your eye to repose upon, or that forms a picturesque spectacle. The first and nearest objects you here discover would serve for the back ground of a good landscape; and in my opinion a prospect is fine only in as far as it is picturesque, and presents a variety of forms and masses. The Brocken derives its importance chiefly from the circumstance that the provinces around it to a considerable distance are either perfectly level, or have but very low hills.

At the house on the Brocken we took another guide, to conduct us to Elbingerode. On this side the mountain is steeper than on the other, but less dreary and disagreeable. On leaving the naked summit you soon arrive at a wood, which, compared with the former, affords quite a delightful view. Nor is the traveller here obliged to wade through bogs, as there is a kind of a road, on which, though rugged enough, he may at least walk dry-

shod. Four miles before you reach Elbingerode the country again becomes civilized, and from the contrast appears even agreeable.

From some accounts of journies to the Brocken, it might be concluded that it is a very lofty mountain, though every one knows this not to be the case. The Brocken is not more than 3000 feet above the level of the sea. In Switzerland, at the height of 4000 feet, there are fertile, smiling, and populous vallies. The Brocken has all that is rude, wild, and disagreeable in the lofty Swiss mountains, without possessing any of the beauties or the fertility that embellish their vallies.

We passed the night at Elbingerode, a small insignificant place, and on the 17th proceeded, still on foot, to Blankenburg. The country becomes more interesting, and here and there I discovered some agreeable spots. This whole tract contains many iron-works, furnaces, &c. and among the mountains you perceive a peculiar kind of rocks and caverns, that reminded me of part of Carniola. One of these called Biel's Cavern, and situated near the village of Rübeland, was discovered in the year 1789 by a miner named Becker, who has enlarged the entrance, cleared away the sand and earth, hewn steps in the rock at one place, and fixed ladders in another, so as to form a tolerably commodious descent. The man shews the whole *con amore*, and has given names to every object it contains. He considers the cave as his property, and has provided it with doors and locks.

Blankenburg, the next town we came to, lies in a pleasing country, and though not a handsome, is not quite an insignificant place. We were here shewn a private house where Louis XVIII. resided for a considerable time. The ducal palace, an ancient and rather decayed building, stands on an eminence, various parts of which command a charming prospect.

From Blankenburg we went nine miles to Wernigerode, a small but bustling and tolerably populous town, principally composed of wooden houses. The Count resides near it on a hill, which affords the finest view I have seen in my journey through the Harz. The castle is a very extensive, ancient building, furnished with such simplicity that I was astonished.

On the 18th we went to Gosslar, a town whose magnitude forms a striking contrast with its population, which does not exceed above 6000 souls. The most remarkable object at Gosslar is the cathedral, said to have been erected in the 11th century. In point of architecture it has but little merit; and indeed scarcely any of the edifices of Germany constructed between the 11th and 14th centuries can be compared with those erected in England during the same period. There you find a great and bold style in the whole, and high perfection in the parts: the German buildings, with few exceptions, are rude, often mean, and the embellishments not only heavy, but in a barbarous taste. In this church

is the altar of one of the deities of the ancient Saxons, which was brought hither from Harzburg. I conversed concerning it with one of the canons of the town, and likewise with a man whose inquiries are particularly devoted to the antiquities of Gosslar, and neither of them had the least doubt but that it was the genuine altar on which the Saxons used to sacrifice children to the God. It is a brass chest, perforated on every side in such a manner that the flame could strike through to consume the victim as it lay on it. You are likewise shewn in the same church a christian altar, surrounded with large metal columns, which was found at the same place, and is said to have been a monument of the heathen ages in Saxony. I must confess that I have great doubts concerning the justice of the pretensions of either of these altars to such high antiquity.

On the 19th of August we left Gosslar. A wretched road conducted us to Lutter, distant nine miles; but from that place a good paved road leads to Brunswick. This part of the bishopric of Hildesheim is an agreeable tract, and well cultivated. On the greater part of the way we had pleasing views of the Harz, and particularly of the Brocken, which appears to much greater advantage at a distance than near.

The road we travelled from Brunswick, through Zell, Verden, and Bremen, to Hamburg, is about one hundred and forty miles. As I had traversed the Hanoverian dominions in so many directions, I did not expect to find nature clothed in charms, or a high degree of population, fertility, and cultivation. Next to Lauenburg, I think it is the worst tract of an equal extent that I ever met with. The soil is one vast sandy desert, which is either naturally bare, or covered with patches of heath or grass. Such a country seems at the first view to be unsusceptible of cultivation; its inhabitants, however, raise several kinds of grain, which yield, it is true, but a scanty produce. Hence the wretched appearance of the villages, and people thinly scattered over the surface of this sandy tract. The houses are mean in general, without chimnies, and attest in various ways the poverty of their inhabitants.

From Brunswick to Bremen the distance is eighty-five miles, in which you pass through only two towns, Zell and Verden; even the villages are very scanty, and we once went fourteen miles, without meeting with a single one. The wood principally found here is the pine, which, as is well known, thrives on the most barren soils. Here and there the sand is so deep and loose, that it produces absolutely nothing. In general this country is flat, yet it contains some eminences like those I have seen in Holland. They are low sand-hills, which appear to have been originally washed together by water, or blown in heaps by the wind before the sand had acquired a certain consistence. They produce no grass, but are either naked, or covered with a small quantity of

heath. But even in this dreary country I found here and there some good corn-fields, and a few fine woods of oaks intermingled with beech and other kinds of trees, and in the neighbourhood of villages, meadows and pastures.

Between Bremen and Rothenburg, twenty-four miles, the soil is far better, and the country more highly cultivated, than that between Brunswick and Bremen. The scenery around the latter is even pleasing; the country-houses of its inhabitants extend to a considerable distance on every side, and this tract is consequently better cultivated than you would expect from the nature of the soil. This pleasing appearance gradually vanishes, and the tract between Rothenburg and Haarbùrg, twenty-eight miles, is steril, uncultivated, and thinly inhabited. The country immediately surrounding Haarbùrg is an exception, and contains some very agreeable spots. The finest and richest part of the Hanoverian dominions is that between Cassel and Hanover, and between Cassel and the Harz.

Verden, though the capital of a county, is but an insignificant place, and contains only a small population. The principal street that runs through the town is of considerable length and rather handsome, but all the others are extremely mean. The cathedral is a large and respectable edifice, but the interior contains nothing worthy of notice except a couple of monuments.

Haarbùrg is by no means a place of importance, but its situation on the Elbe, in the road to Hamburg, gives it the appearance of bustle, and a certain degree of opulence. From this town a boats sails regularly to Hamburg at stated hours, and at a certain price. We hired one for ourselves; the distance is reckoned to be about four miles and a half. When you have passed the Fort, you immediately sail between the islands of Wilhelmsburg and Hochsaur; the former is upwards of fourteen miles in circumference, and, as well as the latter, belongs to Hanover. Its produce in milk, cream, and other articles, is conveyed to Hamburg, where it is sold to great advantage. Beyond Wilhelmsburg, higher up the Elbe, are the islands of Oswater and Morwater, the greater part of which belongs to the city. You then pass by Neuhof, a Hanoverian island belonging to the family of Grote. Still lower lie Olwater and Finkwater; the first belongs to Hanover, and the other is divided between Hanover and Hamburg. We at length arrived at the Block-house, as it is called, where the Hamburg guard enquire the name and quality of strangers, and immediately afterwards we were set on shore at the boom at the entrance of the harbour.

